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*Mrs James Pumpelly*

THE  
ANNALS  
OF  
BINGHAMTON, N.Y.

AND  
OF THE COUNTRY CONNECTED WITH IT,  
FROM THE EARLIEST SETTLEMENT.

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BY J. B. WILKINSON.

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OPUS GRATUM POSTERITATI.

BINGHAMTON:  
COOKE & DAVIS, PRINTERS.

.....  
1840.

Mr James Thompson

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## INTRODUCTION.

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FOR some number of years past it had been felt by some individuals of the place to be very desirable that, in some practicable and easy form, the most important incidents relating to the early settlement of the village should be preserved for the supposed satisfaction and utility of the rising and future generations. It was several times spoken of, and proposed to some of the earliest settlers, to make minutes of what they still remembered relative to themselves and their compeers after they became identified with the settlement.

In compliance, it is supposed, with such a request, many years ago Col. Rose made historical minutes to an important extent ; but unfortunately they were afterward lost, or, as it is believed, accidentally burnt ; so that nothing remained of them. In relation to one important place within the section of country these Annals are designed to embrace, to wit : Elmira, Solomon Southwick, some few years since, wrote a pamphlet, entitled " Views of Elmira," in which he gives the first settlement of the neighborhood and the first laying out of that village, with the early stages of its progress.

That which suggested the present enterprise, and which has resulted in the production of the following

history, was the reading of the little volume, entitled "The Chronicles of Cooperstown." The rising and already extended importance of the village of Binghamton and the country connected with it ; the very insulated condition of the country and consequently of the early settlers ; and also the romantic interest connected with the valley of these rivers, in consequence of its having been, for many generations, the residence and passage-way of many important tribes of Indians, rendered it quite certain that its history would not be without interest even to the present generation. Again, it appeared important that it should be written while some, at least, of the oldest settlers remained upon the stage, that testimony might be had immediately from them---from their own knowledge, and not from the uncertain sources of tradition.

It appeared, also, in prosecuting the work, to be a natural course to take up the country with which Binghamton is now, or has been, more or less intimately connected ; that events might appear in the order of their time, and according to their connection ; and because, also, the two mutually render each other the more interesting. In doing this, we have embraced several other villages whose early settlement and other interesting items in their history are given ; two especially of which fall but little short of our own village in point of population and other considerations of importance.

The two great sources of information are, *philosophy* and *history*. And while the former addresses itself almost entirely to the understanding, the latter



does to all the faculties and susceptibilities of the soul ; to the understanding, the imagination, to the sympathies and to the heart. It is therefore, of the two, the more varied and extensive source. But there are two *properties* in history which, when they unite, give it its highest interest. These are, antiquity and a near relation of the subjects to the reader. The antiquity of a history is relative to itself. The antiquity of the world is its creation and early peopling ; the antiquity of Europe is the settlement of Greece by Cadmus and others ; because it was then it first became known to civilized people. And the antiquity of our own section of country is its first settlement, and so much of its Indian history as we can attain. And although the settlement took place but little over fifty years ago, it notwithstanding has nearly all the charm, or at least much of it, as it would have if it had taken place five hundred years ago ; because the mind of the younger portion of the present generation especially passes back to a period long before its recollection ; and comparing the present state of the country, with what it was in a state of nature, they spontaneously feel the power of the charm of which we speak. It is true, also, that the older a country becomes, the more interesting the history of its early settlement becomes, and the more venerable the persons are, who braved the hardships connected with it.

The other interesting ingredient in history, to wit : a near relation of its subjects to the reader, applies to the present history. Those who live within the section of country which it contemplates, will find

themselves, or what is in effect nearly the same thing, they will find their fathers or ancestors, their relation or acquaintance identified in it. It is the land of their nativity or adoption; and the imagination and the affections throw a charm over it, which, with very many, will never be felt, to the same degree, for any other.

How highly important it is, that these partialities be cultivated; because it is upon the love of family and country, that all the social and virtuous affections are based. They are the earliest with children; and extended and refined, they form the philanthropist and the christian. And it is on these accounts, undoubtedly, that God has made them universal, strong and permanent laws of our nature.

In the present History, the village of Binghamton is made the centre of interest; and other places are treated of, in a great measure, according to their relation to it. Equal fidelity is observed, it is hoped, towards all; but one is made the centre, that *unity* of design and prosecution might appear in the course of the work; and also, that a full history, up to the present date, might be given of one village destined to great importance beyond its present, in the annals of future time.

Though small, it will undoubtedly be a grateful work to posterity; and the older the village and the country of which it treats becomes, the more will its pages be valued.

## THE ANNALS OF BINGHAMTON.

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### CHAPTER I.

THE Village of Binghamton is pleasantly and advantageously situated at the junction of the Susquehannah and Chenango Rivers. As these rivers have Indian names, it may be proper to give their Indian etymology. The former signifies *long and crooked* river, and the latter *pleasant* river. The site upon which it stands is a part of an extensive area or plain, which lies upon the banks of the two rivers and between their approximation; irregular in its boundaries and somewhat varied as to its surface. To measure the plain by the boundary of one's vision, from a moderate elevation, would give it about fifteen or twenty square miles. The mountains which lie upon the north, divided, however, by the Chenango river, and those upon the south, have a greater proximity to the village than those which lie towards the other two points of the compass. These mountains do not rise high enough to become sublime; but their easy slope, their rich and distinctive foliage, and their embossed surface, during the season of foliage, upon which the eye may rest with pleasure, give them a truly beautiful and picturesque appearance. Those towards the east and west, as well as those directly

north, recede much farther from the eye, rearing numerous and rounded heads, lying lower upon the horizon the greater their distance, and giving intelligence, like way-marks, of the course of the two rivers.

The surface is not an entire plain, but unequal, sufficiently to give variety to the view and healthfulness to the atmosphere. Rich and expansive meadows lie upon the banks of the Chenango, with extensive cultivated fields; their rich and carpeted surface, in the spring and summer season, adds another beauty to the general scenery. Likewise upon the banks of the Susquehannah, both above and below the village, are extensive grazing and arable fields. The soil of this great plat is truly rich and fertile, and generally under high cultivation; and the great quantities of plaster now brought into the place for grinding and sale, will render it feasible as well as place the motive before them, for farmers and proprietors to render their lands as productive as even the cupidity of men could wish.

The soil here as well as the earth to a great depth is evidently alluvial; that is, formed since the flood. The soil is somewhat loamy, but the earth beneath, to the distance of thirty or forty feet, is made up of sand and gravel, pebbles highly polished, alternating in stratas, and sometimes mixed; which have been deposited through the agency of some great waters flowing down the channels of these rivers. A probable conjecture, and one that is gaining ground among geologists, is, that the waters after the flood, in passing off from the con-

tinents to the ocean, formed the channels of the most of the rivers now extant; and in their mighty action and flow, they would naturally carry down with them toward the ocean and deposite on their way immense quantities of sand and fragmentary rocks, ten thousand times divided, which, by attrition, would finally become polished and smooth. In digging wells in the village and its vicinity, a very considerable depth has to be attained before water is found; a very natural consequence, supposing the earth, to this depth, has been brought from a distance and deposited.

Another opinion, entertained by some writers on geology, is, that the chain of great lakes at the north is the bottom of a former great and inland sea; that eventually this sea burst into boundaries and formed the St. Lawrence, the Delaware, the Susquehannah, and the Allegany rivers. If such a sea once existed, would not traces of its shores somewhere still be visible?

The Chenango river, if it is proper here to speak of the two rivers at large, is about eighty or ninety miles in length, and has its rise in Madison county. It has a uniform descent of five or six feet to the mile, without any rapids, and flows through a beautiful and fertile country in nearly a direct course from north to south. The mountains which lie upon its course no where crowd its shores, so that the roads upon its banks are no where interrupted by them. Its waters move down undisturbed by rapids, or huge rocks, or sudden curves, increasing the depth of its channel until they are merged with



the waters of the Susquehannah. In the latter part of its course, the banks are from fifteen to twenty-five feet high, sufficient to contain its annual and flooded tide with but little overflowing. It receives but one tributary stream of note, which is the Onondaga, coming in at the Forks.

The Susquehannah is ranked among the largest rivers in the United States. As its name imports, it is long and crooked, having its rise in Otsego Lake and meandering constantly, until it empties its waters into the Chesapeake Bay. The country, almost in its entire course through which it passes, is so broken and mountainous, and the mountains so abrupt and irregular, that the river is kept every few miles turning its course. Though not so convenient for navigable purposes, its serpentine course adds greatly to its beauty and that of the country lying upon its banks.

After leaving the Lake from which it takes its first waters, it runs, though meandering, in nearly a southerly direction for more than twenty miles. It then takes a south-westerly direction for twenty or twenty-five miles more. Here it receives the Unadilla from the north, bearing more southerly then to the curve of the Great Bend, a distance, measuring in a straight line, of twenty-five miles. After making the Great Bend it runs north-west to within five miles of Binghamton. Then nearly due west to Owego. From this place to Rushville directly south-west. Then bearing nearer south to Tioga Point. From the Point it runs due south for eight or ten miles, then bearing south-east to Towan-

da, or the mouth of Towanda Creek. Its general course then, though serpentine, is directly south-east to Pittston; here it changes its direction and runs as duly south-west through the valley of Wyoming, keeping this direction to Sunbury, a distance from the Lackawanna Gap of seventy miles; then nearly south to Harrisburgh it flows in a south-east direction, without so much as curving, to the Chesapeake Bay, a distance further of seventy or eighty miles. It receives its West Branch at Sunbury, and the Junietta empties its waters fifteen miles above Harrisburgh.

There are small rapids or falls about two miles above Wilksbarre. There are falls also at Berwick of five or six feet, crossing the stream nearly at right angles. The falls at Cahnawaga, fourteen miles below Harrisburgh, should rather be called rapids, as they continue for about a mile, agitating the water greatly, and running with great velocity over rocks and shelving stratas. Raftmen enter these rapids at the lower point of an island called Cahnawaga Island, passing a strait not more than seventy feet wide. The water, throughout these rapids, roars like the agitated sea. The raftmen, however familiar with them, always enter these rapids with emotion, if not with fear and apprehension. A smooth navigation now succeeds for about fourteen miles, then shoals and eddies abound nearly to the mouth of the river.

The Village of Binghamton is quite insulated; being remote from any other large village. It is one hundred and fifty miles south-west of Albany,

ninety miles south of Utica, forty miles south south-west of Norwich, twenty-two miles east of Owego, and seven miles from the Pennsylvania line. The great roads that lead to it, are the Newburgh and Milford road from the east, the Elmira and Owego from the west, the Montrose from the south, and the Utica road from the north. These roads, upon which there are lines of daily stages, lie upon both sides of the rivers; although the north side of the Susquehannah and the east side of the Chenango are chiefly travelled. But the most important medium of access to the place, especially so far as transportation is concerned, is the Chenango Canal, which communicates with the great western canal at Utica and terminates at Binghamton. This canal was begun in 1834, and finished in 1837.

The village of Binghamton is the shire town of Broome county, which was set off from Tioga county in 1806, and called Broome, after John Broome, a worthy merchant of the city of New York, and at that time Lieutenant Governor of the State.

The village for a series of years was known only by the name of Chenango Point, and received its present name from the name of William Bingham, a gentleman of large estate, formerly residing in Philadelphia. He was proprietor of a large patent of land lying on both sides of the Susquehannah, and was a munificent benefactor of this place, in its infant village state. Owning the land upon which it stands, he authorised his agent to dispose of the lots, after they were laid out, at such reasonable prices, and upon such easy terms, as would strongly induce



emigrants to settle here. When it was determined that the village should be the county seat, he conveyed to the county, gratuitously, a spacious lot for the Court House; also, a lot for a public school.

Although this distinguished patron might have been disposed—as unquestionably he was—from his own liberal views, and also a regard to his own interest as proprietor of the land—to do much for the place, still it is doubtful whether he would have done the half he actually did, had not General Whitney, or some other man of his liberal and extensive views, been his agent. To Gen. Whitney's sound policy, liberal views and foresight, therefore, is to be attributed, chiefly, the rapid growth and prosperity of the village, as well as a large share of the wealth of many of its inhabitants.

As Mr. Bingham is so intimately connected with the existence and progress of this place, having owned the soil, and been its enlightened and liberal benefactor, it may be proper to give a glance at the outlines of his history and character: He was a native of England, and came to this country when a young man. It is believed he was liberally educated in his own country, and studied the law. This is the impression of his agent, Gen. Whitney. Upon his arrival in America he went into the mercantile business in Philadelphia. What his wealth was at this time is not known. It is believed, however, that he acquired his immense fortune entirely through the force of his own talents and application to business. For mercantile business and speculation upon a large scale he became pre-eminently

qualified. He possessed the soundest judgment and a most capacious mind. And as he rose in business his knowledge became extensive with the great mercantile transactions of Europe and America, and the state of their markets. He made it a point to keep pace with them all, that he might avail himself of all honorable advantages in the speculation of land or foreign trade. The latter was carried on entirely through the medium of his ships, which were sent to most of the great marts of the world. He was the merchant and banker in his domestic relations as well as in his habits. He married the daughter of Thomas M. Willing, of Philadelphia, who was, it will be remembered, the first President of the United States Bank. His two daughters married, the one Alexander, the other Henry Baring, of London, the distinguished bankers of that city. His partner in Baltimore was Robert Gilmore; in Boston, John Richards. He was also merchantly connected with several houses in Europe. He was a member of Congress for some years while it was sitting in Philadelphia. He died in the city of London some time in the year 1804.

The first survey of the village was made in the year 1800, under the direction of Mr. Bingham, at which time the streets were regularly laid out at right angles. In 1808, a re-survey was made by Roswell Marshall; and in 1835, a full and complete survey was made by William Wentz, of the place. A map was made from this survey by F. B. Tower, in 1836. According to this last survey, the

village has an extent of about two miles, measured east and west, and of one mile and a half measured north and south. On the west side of the Chenango, the streets as they are laid out, run nearly east and west and north and south. Upon the east side of the river, where by far most of the village lies, the course of the streets, being determined by the course of the two rivers, besides an important bend in the Susquehannah, have more short streets, and more that meet and cross at angles somewhat oblique. This defect, if such it should be called, does not, however, mar the beauty of the place generally, or of the streets individually.

On this eastern side of the Chenango, there are thirteen streets running nearly east and west, and ten or eleven running, though not so uniformly, north and south. There are in all forty-six streets. Court and Main-streets are full five rods wide; the other streets are uniformly four rods in width, and the distance between from four to ten chains.

Only about one-third of the full limits of the village is, at present, built up. The rest lies in cultivated lots. Almost all the dwellings have gardens attached to them; and many of these gardens, belonging to the dwellings of the more wealthy, are ample, and richly ornamented and laid out in good taste; and, considering the newness of our country, and especially of the place, with a profuse variety of flowers and shrubbery.

It is difficult to make any general and appropriate remarks with regard to the buildings, farther than to say, they are neat, convenient, and appear

well from the streets. There are but few poor houses, remarkably few for the size of the place. Again, it should be remarked, there are but few large and splendid private dwellings, or edifices of any kind. A medium appears to have been studied, and much convenience rather than much ornament. Still, it is evident, ornament has not been neglected. As the buildings are nearly all new, or recently so, the proprietors have had the opportunity of gratifying and exhibiting their taste and skill in the more modern style of architecture, as well as giving an opportunity for the exercise of those qualities in their workmen, so far as the convenience necessary to be studied and their own resources did not limit them. But should it not be remembered, that a manifest and happy adaptation to convenience is *one* of the properties of beauty?

The Court House is situated in Court-street, on an eminence which gives it a commanding aspect from every part of the village. There are six church edifices in the place. An Episcopal Church edifice in Washington-street, a Methodist Chapel in Henry-street, a Presbyterian Church edifice, a Congregational and Baptist in Chenango-street, and a Catholic Cathedral on the west side of the river, in Le Roy-street. A large and elegant brick building for the Broome County Bank, situated on the corner of Court and Chenango-streets, and nearly opposite the Court House. Two large and well-sustained public houses. The building that has been put up since the fire, intended to succeed the Broome County House, is of brick, and a monument truly

of enterprise and taste, if not of magnificence. Since its completion it has taken the name of the *Phenix Hotel*. Two other public houses, though not so large, yet very respectable. Two others, in the suburbs of the village. Four ample piles of buildings for stores and various offices. Two printing offices, a paper issuing from each. The stores of the place, it may be remarked in general, are well sustained, there being a wide extent of country besides the village, depending on their merchandize. There are, in all, thirty stores.

One foundry for castings, four saw-mills in the vicinity of the village, two flouring mills, one extensive plaster-mill and one other now building, three large storage houses for the accommodation of the canal, one plow factory, one turning mill propelled by steam, carriage factories, though limited in the extent of their business compared to what they should be, and mechanics of various crafts.

There are two female seminaries, and one large school for boys, in which the classical and common schools are united, under two preceptors.

After giving this outline of the village, reserving a further detail to a later part of the work, we will give the boundaries of the county, together with a bare enumeration of the townships it contains, and close the present chapter.

Broome county is bounded on the north by Cortland and Chenango counties, on the east by Delaware county, on the south by the Pennsylvania line, and on the west by the county of Tioga. To trace the boundaries in another manner and a little more



particularly, and beginning at the south-east corner, it is bounded by the Delaware river in its greatest western extremity and curve, for six or eight miles; then by a line running due north ten or twelve miles; then by a line running due west about the same distance, separating it from Chenango county; then due north five miles; then due west ten or twelve miles to just beyond, westward, the Chenango river; then north north-west fourteen or fifteen miles; then due west again to the western boundary; then by an irregular line running nearly south to the Pennsylvania line or southern boundary, a distance of twenty-eight or thirty miles, and separating it from Tioga county; then east along the Pennsylvania line to the south-eastern extremity, a distance of thirty-six miles.

The county contains eleven townships, viz: Sandford, Windsor, Colesville, Chenango, Lisle, Union, Vestal, Conklin, Barker, Triangle and Nanticoke.

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## CHAPTER II.

NEITHER the Village nor the County of its locality claims any higher antiquity of history than the period of the Revolutionary War. Prior to this, it appears to have been known to our white population only on maps and charts, as forming constituent parts of New-York and Pennsylvania States. The foot of the white man is not known to have trodden over these vallies and mountains, except pro-

bably as Indian prisoners, until General Sullivan, with his army, marched into the State, on his expedition against the Indians.

It would be very gratifying to our natural love of *what is ancient and remote*, if we could have the history of our particular section, as well as of the country generally, though we should do this by the uncertain vestiges of Indian tradition, to a more remote period of antiquity. The mind naturally inquires, what was the appearance of these mountains and plains and rivers in the time of the Crusades? Have they undergone any material change, except in the wax and wane of their forest trees and herbage, since the dark ages of Europe? What race of people were their tenants when Alfred the Great gave laws to his rustic subjects? Although it is at present beyond human knowledge to solve these questions, still the reader may indulge his imagination and say, without conjecture, that at these periods, and even long before, the sun, when he rose unobscured, burnished these mountain tops, and let down his rays upon these vallies. Here shadows, whether of the mountain or of the lofty pine, turned from west to east in precise obedience to the sun's own progress and elevation. Here too was experienced by the beasts of the forest, and, more than probably, by man, either savage or civilized, the vicissitudes of the seasons: the blasts of winter, the budding of spring, the alternate zephyrs and sultry stillness of summer, and the reddening of the leaves of autumn.

Upon the site of Binghamton a brigade of Ame-

rican troops under the command of General James Clinton, the father of the celebrated Dewitt Clinton, encamped for one or two nights, on their way to join another large division of the American army, destined against the Indians of this State, under the command of Gen. Sullivan.

It cannot but be gratifying to those whom Providence has placed here as residents, and who have consequently located here their partialities and their strongest patriotic feelings, that the place is connected, even in this incidental manner, with the revolutionary war; that the soldiers of that war once trod over this place; that upon its sod rested their arms and their wearied bodies; that here the officers concerted measures, which, in their achievement, have helped to fill out the history of that great event. There is a sufficient connection between this expedition and the country under contemplation, to justify briefly its history; especially because it was at that time the country became first known to the whites.

It should be understood, therefore, that the Indians of this State, being more numerous than of any other of the states, were capable of forming, and did actually form, a powerful ally to our already powerful enemy. In the commencement of hostilities between the mother country and the colonies, the Six Nations, as they were commonly called, whose limits were chiefly within this State, had solemnly promised to the colonies neutrality. This pledge was given by their chiefs and members generally, at a great council held at the German



Flats, and called for this specific purpose. Probably the Indians would have kept their promise inviolate, had not British vassals, in the form of commissioners, taken extraordinary pains to induce them to take up arms against us. Pursuant to this, they invited a council to be held at Oswego, where they informed the chiefs that the white people of the colonies had risen up against their good king and were about to rob him of a great part of his possessions; and that, therefore, they wished the assistance of themselves and their warriors in subduing them. They promised, moreover, ample reward for their services. The chiefs then informed the commissioners, of the treaty and promise of neutrality they had only a year before made with the colonies, and of their disposition to adhere to it. The commissioners then addressed their cupidity and their passion for liquor, telling them how plenty rum should be, and made a display of their gifts. These appeals, added to their natural enmity of the whites, succeeded in bringing them into compliance. They signed a treaty, in which they promised to take up arms against the rebels until they should be subdued.

These Indians of the Six Nations, with the exception of the Oneidas, now thirst, with a keener appetite than ever, for the blood of the white man; they are impatient to commence hostilities; they muster their forces and urge their way to the nearest and most exposed white settlement. Their attacks upon Cautega, Cherry Valley, upon several places on the Hudson river, and still more notably, upon Minisink,

of Orange county, and Wyoming, of Pennsylvania, are well remembered.

Congress found it necessary to send a strong armed force into the heart of their country, and, by retorting their own mode of warfare, as far as practicable, to exterminate them. They therefore appointed an army of between four and five thousand men, with Gen. Sullivan in chief command, with orders to march through the wilderness part of Pennsylvania, into those parts of the state of New-York, inhabited by these hostile tribes. This army consisted principally of three lines, or divisions. The New Jersey line, commanded by Gen. Maxwell; the New England line, commanded by Gen. Hand; and the New-York line, commanded by Gen. Clinton. The former two lines marched from Elizabethtown, of New Jersey, by the way of Easton, thence to Wyoming, and then up the Susquehannah to Tioga Point.

It is interestingly stated in the history of Wyoming, that Gen. Sullivan with his army departed from Wyoming on the 31st of July, and moved up the river, on the east side. The baggage of the army occupied 120 boats and 2000 horses; the former were arranged in regular order upon the river, and were propelled against the stream by soldiers with setting-poles, having a sufficient guard of troops to accompany them. The horses which carried the provisions for the daily subsistence of the troops, passed along the narrow Indian path in single file, and formed a line extending about six miles. The whole scene formed a military display at once beau-

tiful and imposing ; and calculated to make a formidable impression upon the minds of those parties of savages which lurked upon the mountains, from which all these movements might be visible.

The latter division marched from Schenectady, up the Mohawk, to Fort Plain. From this place they struck to the outlet of Otsego Lake. Through this part of their march they were obliged to cut their entire way. Traces of this army road, it is said, are still to be seen. Here Clinton ordered a dam to be thrown across the outlet ; and thus by raising the water of the lake he was enabled, when the dam was broken away, to transport down the river in the flood, his ordnance, stores and troops. Delayed by the time taken in cutting the road we have just mentioned, and constructing the dam, he could not arrive at Tioga, where he was to join Sullivan, so soon as was expected.

General Sullivan, upon arriving at Tioga Point, found the Indians had collected there in considerable numbers, with whom also he had some considerable skirmishes. It will not be thought improper here to introduce an anecdote of a veteran soldier of this campaign. He is an aged man, now living in Ridgebury, Pa., a little off from the valley of the Chemung, but within our historic range. He lives to tell the story of his warlike deeds, which were many indeed, and brave. He enlisted into his country's service when only about seventeen years of age, in the commencement of the war, and served bravely through it. While the army was passing up the river from Wyoming, a little above Towanda,

when it was nearly or quite dusk, Stiles, for this is his name, with three other men, Andrew Burnet, of Whippany, New Jersey, one Murphey and one Butler were together, detached somewhat from the main army. They heard a noise upon their left hand, which they were about to let pass as the hooting of owls. But Murphey stopped his comrades, and said, in a low tone, these are not the noises of owls; there are Indians near us. Upon this he proposed that his three companions remain where they were, but concealed, while he should go back some distance and rise the hill in a direction towards the hootings they had heard. The device succeeded; for the little noise made by him in rising the hill, the Indians, who proved to be three in number, hearing and not being able to discern any object, their fears were the greater; they ran precipitately down almost upon the three men that lay concealed. These singled each his Indian, fired, and killed the three.

There is also living in the neighborhood of this village, Binghamton, on the opposite side of the Susquehannah, and about five miles below, near Willow Point, a Mr. William Weston, an aged man, whose name and deeds of revolutionary valor deserves a place on record. He was in this expedition against the Indians. He says the army marched up from Wyoming on the east side of the river, and at, or near, Towanda they crossed over to the west side; and that in crossing here, and also in crossing the mouth of the Chemung, opposite Tioga Point, they were obliged to ford the rivers; and

especially at the latter place the water was nearly up to their arm-pits. Each soldier was ordered to take and keep hold of his file-leader's shoulder, that the current might not break their order.

Mr. Weston came from England to this country when about fourteen years old, on board a man-of-war, a ship of the line, sent to guard the port of Boston immediately after the tea, in that harbor was thrown overboard. But being young, he was suffered to leave the vessel at the solicitation of an uncle of his, who was then living in Boston. At the commencement of hostilities he joined the American army, and served as a fifer for one or two years. After this he entered the ranks with gun and bayonet, and served throughout the war. He was in most of the important battles: in the battle of Long Island, of Monmouth, of Brandywine, and of York Town.

Although now very aged, rising eighty years, Mr. Weston retains, to a remarkable degree, his health and strength of constitution, and also his mental faculties. He lives retired back in the woods which bound the river plane, and seems contented, so far as great sacrifices contribute to this happy state of mind, in the reflection that he has served his country in arms, while in her great and successful struggle for liberty; though he receive not either its wealth or its honors.

The name of one more patriot highly deserves a place in these Annals, and in this part of them. Let his memory be cherished and blessed by the living, for he is lately in his grave! Mr. John Rush, who



died the past autumn, and who dwelt retiredly also in the forest neighborhood of his brother soldier, Mr. Weston, was also in Sullivan's expedition. He was a relative of the distinguished Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia. He was a man, in his day, evidently of more than ordinary strength of understanding. His high and well-turned forehead betokened the same, as well as a man of great benevolence. He was known to several in the village; and by those who estimate character according to worth, he was highly esteemed, and even venerated. He, with his fellow-in-arms, Mr. Weston, were in the detachment of men that were sent from Tioga to meet Gen. Clinton, on his way down. He was a native of New Jersey, and belonged to that line. Serving throughout the war, it was his fortune to be in all the important battles of the revolution. During a considerable part of the war he was one of General Washington's body-guard. A higher compliment could not have been paid to his fidelity, even by Washington himself.

He was set as one of the guard over Maj. Andre, soon after his capture. Having received strict orders not to suffer any thing to be moved or meddled with in the prisoner's apartment, he forbid on one occasion Maj. Andre himself from taking some crackers from a cask that stood in that part of the barrack. When forbidden by Mr. Rush, he said, "Do you intend to *starve* me too?" Mr. Rush replied, "if hungry, you must make it known to the officer of the guard."

He was one appointed to escort Lord Cornwallis,

after his memorable surrender, to the American camp. The escort found him in a cave, and writing. It was an artificial cave which the British commander had excavated during the protracted engagement, to screen himself from the bombs of the enemy.

Upon arriving at Tioga Point, Gen. Sullivan conceived it important to send a detachment immediately to General Clinton, to inform him where the main army was, and where it would wait his union. He therefore sent a sergeant and eight men to the outlet of Otsego Lake, where he supposed Clinton by this time was. These men kept up the Susquehanna to the mouth of the Chenango river, then up that river to the Forks. They then struck nearly an eastern course to the outlet. Job Stiles, just spoken of, was one of the number. He says they were about, or nearly, two weeks in performing this journey; that in consequence of a continued and drenching rain, which continued nearly all this time, their provisions were all spoiled, which obliged them to throw them away, and depend upon the roots and berries of the forest, and what game they might chance to meet with. These all proved but scanty sources. They came near to famishing. One of their number they were obliged to leave near the Forks, in consequence of his sickness and exhaustion. They built him a little cabin and a fire, and, painful as it was, they were obliged to leave him to his fate.

The letters for Clinton, which were two, they kept rolled in two handkerchiefs during the saturating rain, and under their arm-pits. One carried by the sergeant and the other by Stiles. When

they arrived at Clinton's camp, and even for days before, they were so enfeebled they could scarcely travel. When the generous and provident commander learned how long they had been without food, he ordered them into a tent near his own, without saying a word about provision. Shortly a little soaked biscuit, and but a little too, was sent them. They were kept upon a limited quantity of this and a little soup for some days, ere they were allowed to eat to their satisfaction. They came down the river on board the floats to this place, and then having landed they hurried to Tioga, their best way.

In consequence of these messengers not returning so soon by many days as was expected, Sullivan could hear nothing from Clinton; and becoming uneasy under the delay occasioned by the non-arrival of the other division, he detached between three and four hundred men to meet it. This detachment came up the river on the Owego side, and met Clinton's division about half way between Union and Binghamton. According to Mr. Rush's statement, the detachment came up as far as Binghamton, for, he says, he encamped upon its ground.

The discrepancy between Mr. Rush and those who say the detachment came no farther than about mid-way between the place of Union and that of this village, may be reconciled by supposing a portion of the detachment came up as far as this village, and, according to Mr. Rush, still farther. Mr. Rush remembered the *point* of these two rivers distinctly; and said there were several Indian wigwams upon it at the time, but no Indians to be seen.



That there was corn growing upon the Island just above the white bridge, which they destroyed.

Clinton, on his way down, destroyed the Indian settlement at Oquaga, and, more than probable, one or more villages of their's on the Chenango river. There were the vestiges of a recent village on the bank of this river, about three miles above the village of Binghamton, on the west side, and a little below Captain Leonard's present residence; visible to the first white settlers. The inference is, that they were the remains of an Indian village destroyed by Clinton.

After the detachment from Tioga met with the New York division, the whole moved down the river, having one or two skirmishes with parties of Indians who appeared now and then upon the adjacent hills. Nearly opposite Judge Stoddard's, on the south side of the river, have been found one or more cannon balls. These, almost to a certainty, were thrown from their cannon, as several discharges were made, particularly at this place and near Union. A little lower down the river, also, from Judge Stoddard's, and on the north side, on John D. Mersereau's farm, there is still to be seen the remains of an Indian fort, which, according to tradition, was thrown up at this time. Evident marks also of musket shot upon the trees near the shore here, which were very visible when the country was first settled. A little east of Union, upon what is called Round Hill, there was quite a skirmish. The Indians appear to have collected here to a considerable number, with probably the design of giv-

ing battle, judging of the number and strength of their enemy from the comparatively small number they saw pass up the river. But on the return, this comparatively small number was converted into a formidable army. They were therefore far from venturing an engagement, and at the discharge of the cannon, they fled precipitately over the hill towards the river; one Indian, some say two, was it as perceived, in the general flight, fell from a projected rock or precipice and broke his neck. They then proceeded down the river to Tioga Point, without any thing further remarkably occurring.

The whole army destined for this invasion, being now together, marched for the head of the Seneca Lake, proceeding up the Chemung river on the east side. The Indians who were engaged in the battle at Wyoming, at the approach of winter retired to the neighborhood of Oquaga and Unadilla, with the celebrated Brant at their head. Capt. Brant, who was never found idle, was busy in preparing for the next summer's campaign; so that at the time of this expedition, the Indians, with their tory allies who had wintered in Canada, were never better prepared to meet their foe, having nearly their entire strength concentrated in this army, with high spirits, from the signal victory gained the year before at Wyoming. Their number was about 800 Indians and 200 tories, under the united command of Captain Brandt and Colonel John Butler, a British officer.

The Indians, it is said, when they first heard that a large army was making its way into their wilderness to lay waste their fields and dwellings, *laughed*

at the supposed impossibility of so large a body of men either making an ingress into their dense wilderness or of finding out their settlements. They were not probably aware that the American army had, as guides, some of their own brethren of the Oneidas. One in particular was chosen, a brave and intelligent Oneida, to guide their marches and to lead them from settlement to settlement. He served them in this capacity through their march out ; but just before they had terminated their outward course, he was taken prisoner with another Oneida, in a skirmish near Honeoy, now called Richmond, in Ontario county, and cruelly put to death.

Flanking parties were kept out both by the enemy and our army, to watch each other's movements, and to prevent surprise. When they had moved up the river from Tioga about twelve or fourteen miles, and within six miles of Newtown, nearly opposite Wellsburgh, they came to an engagement. It was severely fought for a while, when an attempt was made to surround the enemy. A high mountain being on one side, and the river upon the other, constituted a favorable opportunity. Gen. Hand with his brigade was therefore ordered to file off to the right, and pass around the mountain and come down to the river above the enemy. But Brandt observing this manœuvre, ordered a retreat, which, being timely effected, he saved himself. Brandt and Butler retired about a mile and a half farther up the river, and made another stand. This was near to what is now called Baldwin's Tavern. Here they

threw up a temporary breast-work during the night, and waited for their enemy. Upon the enemy's arriving a battle took place here also. The Indians were completely routed, and many of them killed. They retreated still up the river, and upon the present site of Elmira, or rather a few chains below; they threw up a hasty redoubt, vestiges of which still remain. Whether there was any skirmishing here does not appear. The Indians, with their allies, retired farther up the river, ten or twelve miles above Newtown, at a place called the Narrows, where they made a determinate stand. Our army still pursued them to this place. A furious and bloody engagement took place here; the Indians and Tories fighting, as if it were their last forlorn hope. They met with a great defeat here too.

Their slain was nearly without number; and the sides of the rocks towards the river were literally drenched in blood. The Indians threw their dead into the river, and made their escape with great terror and precipitation. They undoubtedly thought, that at this narrow pass, they would, with the greatest prospect of success, be able to stop the further progress of their enemy. They were in hopes, also, of diverting them into a course which would lead them away from their settlements.

After this bloody engagement at the Narrows, Sullivan led back the army to Newtown. From this place he lays his course directly to the head of Seneca Lake. Every night now, when the army encamped, he ordered cannon to be fired, that the

Indians might be apprised of the rapidity of his marches.

Brandt and Butler, with their remaining veterans, seem to have kept at a cautious distance from our troops, hanging upon their rear or flanks, and watching their movements. Sullivan appears not to have met with the enemy again until he came to the outlet of the lake, the shore of which he had been following from its head. One mile and a half north of the outlet he found the capital of the Senecas, Kanadesaga. The Indians had, even to the least child, retreated from the place, leaving, however, a *white* child of *four* years old, according to another statement *seven* years old, behind. The child was taken into the care of an officer, who, on account of ill health, was not on duty. The officer took the little prisoner home to his residence on, or near, the North river, and adopted it into his family. The town was entirely destroyed, with the fruits of their fields. From near this place were sent back to Tioga Point a captain, and fifty sick. The army now took a western direction, and after marching twelve or fifteen miles, came to the outlet of Canandaigua Lake, where they destroyed another town, called after the lake, of about twenty houses. Some of the houses had neat chimneys, and were otherwise built superior to ordinary wigwams. From Canandaigua the army proceeded to Honeoy, which they destroyed; and passing by Hemlock Lake, they came to the head of Connessius Lake, where the army encamped for the night, on the ground which is now called Henderson's Flats.



Soon after the army had encamped, at the dusk of evening, a party of twenty-one men, under the command of Lieut. William Boyd, was detached from the rifle corps, which was commanded by the celebrated Morgan, and sent out for the purpose of reconnoitering the ground near the Genesee river, at a place now called Williamsburgh, at a distance from the place of encampment of about seven miles, and under the guidance of a faithful Indian pilot. The place was then the site of an Indian village; and it was apprehended that the Indians and rangers, as their allies were called, might be there, or in its vicinity.

When the party arrived at Williamsburgh, they found that the Indians had very recently left the place, as the fires in their huts were still burning. The night was so far spent when they got to the place of their destination, that the gallant Boyd, considering the fatigue of his men, concluded to remain quietly where he was, near the village, sleeping upon their arms, till the next morning, and then to despatch two messengers with a report to the camp. Accordingly, a little before daybreak, he sent two men to the main body of the army with information that the enemy had not been discovered, but were supposed to be not far distant, from the fires they found burning the evening before.

After day-light, Lieut. Boyd and his men cautiously crept from the place of their concealment, and upon getting a view of the village, discovered two Indians lurking about the settlement. One of whom was immediately shot and scalped by one of the ri-



flemen, by the name of Murphy. Lieut. Boyd—supposing now that if there were Indians near they would be aroused by the report of the rifle, and possibly by a perception of what had just taken place, the scalping of the Indian—thought it most prudent to retire and make his best way back to the main army. They accordingly set out, and retraced the steps they had taken the evening before.

On their arriving within about one mile and a half of the main army, they were surprised by the sudden appearance of a body of Indians, to the amount of five hundred, under the command of Brandt, and the same number of rangers, commanded by the infamous Butler, who had secreted themselves in a ravine of considerable extent, which lay across the track that Lieut. Boyd had pursued. These two leaders of the enemy had not lost sight of the American army since their appalling defeat at the Narrows above Newtown, though they had not shown themselves till now. With what dismay they must have witnessed the destruction of their towns and the fruits of their fields, that marked the progress of our army! They dare not, however, any more come in contact with the main army, whatever should be the consequence of their forbearance.

Lieut. Boyd and his little heroic party, upon discovering the enemy, knowing that the only chance for their escape would be by breaking through their lines, an enterprize of most desperate undertaking, made the bold attempt. As extraordinary as it may seem, the first onset, though unsuccessful, was made without the loss of a man on the part of the

heroic band, though several of the enemy were killed. Two attempts more were made, which were equally unsuccessful, and in which the whole party fell, except Lieut. Boyd and eight others. Boyd and a soldier by the name of Parker, were taken prisoners on the spot; a part of the remainder fled, and a part fell on the ground apparently dead, and were overlooked by the Indians, who were too much engaged in pursuing the fugitives to notice those who fell.

When Lieut. Boyd found himself a prisoner, he solicited an interview with Brandt, preferring, it seems, to throw himself upon the clemency and fidelity of the savage leader of the enemy, rather than trust to his civilized colleague. The chief, who was at that moment near, immediately presented himself, when Lieut. Boyd, by one of those appeals and tokens which are known only by those who have been initiated and instructed in certain mysteries, and which never fail to bring succor to a distressed brother, addressed him as the only source from which he could expect respite from cruel punishment or death. The appeal was recognized, and Brandt immediately, and in the strongest language, assured him that his life should be spared.

Boyd and his fellow-prisoner were conducted immediately by a party of the Indians to the Indian village, called Beardstown, after a distinguished chief of that name, on the west side of the Genesee river, and in what is now called Leicester. After their arrival at Beardstown, Brandt, being called on service which required a few hour's absence, left

them in the care of Col. Butler. The latter, as soon as Brandt had left them, commenced an interrogation, to obtain from the prisoners a statement of the number, situation and intentions of the army under Sullivan; and threatened them, in case they hesitated or prevaricated in their answers, to deliver them up immediately to be massacred by the Indians; who, in Brandt's absence, and with the encouragement of their more savage commander, Butler, were ready to commit the greatest cruelties. Relying probably upon the promises which Brandt had made them, and which he most likely intended to fulfil, they refused to give Butler the desired information. Upon this refusal, burning with revenge, Butler hastened to put his threat into execution. He delivered them to some of their most ferocious enemies, among which the Indian chief Little Beard was distinguished for his inventive ferocity. In this, that was about to take place, as well as in all the other scenes of cruelty that were perpetrated in his town, Little Beard was master of ceremonies. The stoutest heart quails under the apprehension of immediate and certain torture and death; where too, there is not an eye that pities, nor a heart that feels. The suffering Lieut. was first stripped of his clothing, and then tied to a sapling, when the Indians menaced his life by throwing their tomahawks at the tree directly over his head, brandishing their scalping knives around him in the most frightful manner, and accompanying their ceremonies with terrific shouts of joy. Having punished him sufficiently in this way, they made a small opening in his abdomen,

took out an intestine, which they tied to a sapling, and then unbound him from the tree, and by scourges, drove him around it till he had drawn out the whole of his intestines. He was then beheaded, and his head was stuck upon a pole, with a dog's head just above it, and his body left unburied upon the ground.

Thus perished William Boyd, a young officer of heroic virtue and of rising talents; and in a manner that will touch the sympathies of all who read the story of his death. His fellow-soldier, and fellow-sufferer, Parker, was obliged to witness this moving and tragical scene, and in full expectation of passing the same ordeal.

According, however, to our information, in relation to the death of these two men, which has been obtained incidentally from the Indian account of it, corroborated by the discovery of the two bodies by the American army, Parker was only beheaded.

The main army, immediately after hearing of the situation of Lieutenant Boyd's detachment, moved towards Genesee river, and finding the bodies of those who were slain in the heroic attempt to penetrate the enemy's line, buried them in what is now the town of Groveland, near the bank of Beard's Creek, under a bunch of wild plum trees, where the graves are to be seen to this day.

Upon their arrival at the Genesee river, the army crossed over, scoured the country for some distance upon the river, burnt the Indian villages on the Genesee flats, particularly the capital of the Genesee country, consisting of 120 houses, with vast quanti-

ties of corn and other productions of their fields. The army encamped around the town, and tarried long enough to gather the productions of their extended plains into their wigwams, and to destroy *both*, by setting the buildings on fire.

While engaged in this work of devastation, or before they commenced a return, a white woman was accidentally found, who had been taken prisoner at Wyoming. She was found by one of the sentinels a little before sunrise, in a most forlorn condition, with only a ragged blanket around her. She had concealed herself for many days, and had lived this whole time upon only three ears of corn. When first discovered she *only begged her life*, saying, "do not shoot me." As soldiers are noted for their chivalry, so in this instance, the rustic sentinel, with becoming feeling and delicacy, led her, trembling and mortified, to Col. Butler. Probably she immediately let it be known that she was taken prisoner at Wyoming, and was therefore brought to Colonel Butler as one most likely to recognize her. He was himself from that place, and commanded at the great massacre there. She was found to be a Mrs. Lester, whose husband fell on the day of that bloody engagement. She was made comfortable in the camp, her fears allayed, and treated with suitable respect. She was brought by the army back to Wyoming.

So entire was the destruction of the cattle, grain and fruit of the region around this capital, that the Indians upon their return after the army had left, according to the statement of Mrs. Jimison, who was



herself among the Indians and sharing their fortunes, that there was not left a mouthful of any kind of sustenance, not even enough to keep a child one day from perishing with hunger.

The Indians by this time had become so alarmed lest an entire destruction should be made of them, that, in leaving their capital at Sullivan's approach, they sent their women and children far on towards Buffalo, accompanied with other Indians, while a part only remained secreting themselves to watch the movements of their enemy.

Sullivan, having now accomplished the destruction of all the Indian settlements towards the West, so far as he could learn, determined to commence his march back. The army re-crossed the Genesee river, and pursued the same path back to Geneva, and indeed to Tioga Point and Wyoming, that they had pursued in coming. At Honeoy a number of horses, worn down with service, on their way out, had been left at large in the woods to recruit; which on their return could not be found. In consequence of this, a considerable amount of the army's baggage must have been left, had not many of the officers, entitled to ride, given up their horses and walked; among whom was the commander-in-chief himself. An illustrious instance of dignified condescension, and of moral beauty.

On their way back, at Canandaigua, Sullivan detached Col. Butler, of Wyoming, with five hundred riflemen, to Cayuga Lake to destroy the settlements on that Lake. Lieut. Col. Dearborn was also detached, with two hundred men, to the *south* side of



the Lake, to execute the same work upon the Indian settlements there. South and east of Catharine they appear to have passed a swamp on their way out, which they much dreaded on their return. This swamp, which was itself called Catharine, as well as the present town of that name which occupies the site of the swamp, was called after a celebrated French woman who had married an Indian husband, and who was living in or near this place at the time the army was marching out. She was of a masculine Amazonian temperament, and having united her interest and feelings with the Indians, she showed herself, and employed the *point* of a woman's reproach and sarcasm upon the army as they passed. Some of the soldiers, however, contrived, at their own instigation, so to dispose of her, that her tongue should be still for the future. This is their tradition. But Col. Stone, in his Life of Capt. Brandt, says she was living after the war. Her entire name, according to him, was Catharine Montaun.

When they arrived within six miles of Newtown, either now on their return, or when going out, they were obliged to abandon between three and four hundred of their horses, they were so galled and jaded down; and lest they should fall into the hands of the Indians after recovering their strength and soundness, they led them out from the camp and shot them. When the place came to be settled, the primitive inhabitants finding the skeletons of their heads bleaching yet upon the ground, in honor and commemoration of the event, gave the place the name of "Horse Heads."

The army, upon arriving at Newtown, was saluted from the fort which Capt. Reid and two hundred men had thrown up, to guard some stores and cattle sent up the river from Tioga for the army. He appears to have been left for this purpose. The salute was given by firing thirteen guns; and was answered from the artillery of the army. Here a public rejoicing took place, in consequence of receiving intelligence that Spain had declared war against Great Britain. This intelligence, together with the happy and important result of their expedition, gave uncommon vivacity and cheer to the spirits of the way-worn army. The rejoicing was celebrated by killing and roasting five oxen, one for each brigade; by giving double rations of bread and liquor; and by the discharge of cannon and small arms. Here also the army remained a number of days to recruit their wasted strength, and thus to prepare for the long journey yet before them.

After leaving Newtown, they passed down the Chemung to Tioga Point, on the same side they marched up, having an opportunity of viewing the desolations they had made, and the ground from which they had driven the enemy. But now not a solitary one to be seen. From Tioga they pass down to Wyoming; from Wyoming they cross to Easton, where they arrived about the 15th of October; and from Easton to Morristown, of New Jersey, where they went into winter quarters. General Clinton, with the New-York line, appears to have left the main army at Tioga, and marching to the Hudson river, went into winter quarters at West Point.

The whole number lost in this truly celebrated and difficult expedition, including those who fell and those who died of sickness, was only forty men. The heroism, military skill, and patient perseverance with which it was conducted, its great success, and happy results to the frontier inhabitants, entitled the officers and men to distinguished praise and gratitude, which undoubtedly they received; and ever will, so long as their history remains. Upon the completion of it, Congress passed a vote of thanks to Gen. Sullivan, to his officers and men.

The following winter, 1779-80, was distinguished, on account of its unexampled rigor, by the name of the *hard winter*. This was very unfortunate and severe upon the Indians, who depended for their sustenance upon the fields of grain which Sullivan destroyed; and, whose villages being burnt, were left houseless.

In this year, 1780, the waters of the Susquehanna wafted down, from its head to the mouth of the Chemung, the canoes of another warlike company, under the command of Capt. Brandt. It consisted of forty-three Indian warriors and seven Tories, having in custody eleven prisoners, whom they had taken soon after the burning of Harpersfield, in Delaware county, and were conducting to Niagara. They were what remained of fourteen militiamen, who had been sent out some little distance from Fort Schoharie, and were, at the time they were taken, busily employed in manufacturing sugar in a maple grove. Capt. Alexander Harper was one of these prisoners. Emotions and apprehensions

mantled the bosoms of these men as they passed the banks of present Binghamton; such as have, more than probably, not been experienced by any in or so near our neighborhood since, if before, that day. They looked forward to a certain and torturing death, which they were daily told in a taunting and unfeeling manner by the tories, they were soon to experience.

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### CHAPTER III.

THE first white man who made a permanent settlement in what is claimed for the village vicinity, was Captain Joseph Leonard. He moved from Wyoming in the year 1787, only eight years after Sullivan's expedition, with a young wife and two little children. His wife and the two little ones were put on board a canoe with what goods he brought up, and the canoe rowed by a hired man; while he himself came up on land with two horses, keeping the shore and regulating his progress by that of his family in the river. A Capt. Baldwin, who settled on the Chemung river, moved up at the same time in company with him.

Captain Leonard was originally from Plymouth, of Massachusetts. He went, when quite a young man, on one or more voyages in the whale fishery. He lived in Wyoming some number of years; was there under arms in the time of the great massacre, though not on the field of action. He owned a farm there. At the time of the great Susquehannah or ice freshet, his own dwelling, with many others, was

carried away in the wide-spread devastation of that deluge. This event, which took place, it is believed, in 1784, together with the disputed state of their land titles, induced Capt. Leonard to leave, and to seek more peaceable and secure possessions.

For information on the nature and extent of the controversy between the Susquehannah Company, who originally settled Wyoming—having made the purchase of the Government of Connecticut, and the heirs of William Penn, as the subject is extensive, the reader must be referred to the History of Wyoming.

Captain Leonard received his first information of this region through the medium of Amos Draper, then an Indian trader in these parts. There was, Capt. Leonard says, when he came here, a Mr. Lyon, who lived in a temporary log house, near where Col. Page's ashery now stands. In the short period of two or three weeks after the arrival of Capt. L. as if in accordance with a preconcerted coincidence, came Col. William Rose and his brother, and fixed their location a little further up the river beyond Capt. Leonard's. It was also but a short time after the arrival of the latter, that he, with Amos Draper, invited the Indians of the neighborhood to meet in council, and leased of them, for the term of ninety-nine years, one mile square; for which they were to give a *barrel of corn* per year. This lease, however, was invalidated by an act of the State Legislature having been previously passed, and without the knowledge of these men, "that no lands should be leased or purchased of the Indians by private indi-



viduals." But before it was known that such a law existed, Col. Rose and his brother purchased Mr. Draper's interest in the lease. It embraced where the three had located themselves and where Capt. Leonard and Col. Rose still live. The brother of Col. Rose settled *himself* in what was afterward called Lisle, where he lived till within a few years, when he removed to Wayne county, in Pennsylvania.

Col. Rose and his brother came from Connecticut on foot; and when they reached what is called Wattles' Ferry, where the Catskill Mountains cross the Susquehannah river, they procured a canoe and came down in that; bringing stores with them to this place.

They often saw parties of Indians on the shore, sitting by their fires, engaged in their festivities, or skirting the mountains in pursuit of deer. They, however, never offered to molest them.

These young adventurers first left their native state, Connecticut, for the wilds of Vermont, on the banks of the Lamoile. But not being satisfied with the prospects before them, left these less propitious lands, for the country of Wyoming, or rather the country bordering on the Conhocton.

When, however, journeying towards this country, they had passed down the Susquehannah as far as what is now called Union, they learned from a temporary settler of that place, a Mr. Gallop, that the country they were seeking was in high dispute; that they could obtain no satisfactory title for their land, and that they would be obliged to fight for their crops. Upon receiving this intelligence, they turned back



to the mouth of the Chenango river, whose broad stream and pleasant banks struck them favorably as they passed down.

In the same year, 1787, and not far from the same time, came also, Joshua Whitney, the father of the present Gen. Joshua Whitney, Gen. Wm. Whitney and Henry Green. These three families came from Hillsdale, Columbia county, and settled on the west side also of the Chenango, about two miles above its junction with the Susquehannah, on what was afterwards called Whitney's Flats. At this time there appear to have been no other inhabitants, except those already mentioned, nearer than Tioga Point, a distance of forty miles.

But previously to the settlement of these first emigrants, viz : Capt. Leonard, Col. Rose and his brother, the two Whitneys, Henry Green, and Mr. Gallop, at the Forks, in the year 1786, or earlier, a few individuals, of the state of Massachusetts, having become acquainted with this region from individuals who had been in the Indian expedition, came and viewed the country. After seeing it, and obtaining a grant from their own State, they determined on purchasing a large tract of the Indians ; and proposed to have it bounded on the east by the Chenango river ; on the south by the patents of Bingham and Cox, who, it seems, were prior to them in their purchase ; on the west by the Owego creek ; and extending so far north as to embrace within the limits just specified, 230,000 acres. The amount paid by the company to the State was £1500.

This tract, according to the grant made to the

company was to be bounded on the south by the Susquehannah river. But when the agents of the company came, they found that patents had already been granted to Bingham, Wilson and Cox, by the state of New-York, embracing the valley of the Susquehannah, which fixed the southern boundary of the company upon the northern boundary of these patents, in extent about twenty miles square, and containing, as it was afterwards divided, ten townships.

The claims upon the southern part of the state of New-York, which Massachusetts once asserted in virtue of some old but not well defined grants, were finally satisfied by the former State granting to the latter the right of *pre-emption* to all the lands within the bounds of the state of New-York lying west of a line drawn due north from the *eighty-second* mile-stone on the Pennsylvania line, to Lake Ontario.

They made their propositions to the Indians for the purchase of it, appointed a time and place for the negotiation of the bargain, and returned home. These individuals, at first, designed to form a company to consist only of eleven persons; but conceiving the purchase too heavy for so small a number, and having so many applications for co-partnership, the number of the company was finally fixed at sixty. This company appointed as commissioners to treat with the Indians, Elijah Brown, Gen. Oringh Stoddard, Gen. Moses Ashley, Capt. Raymond, and Col. David Pixley. These gentlemen met the Indians in treaty, in the first instance on the Chenango river, the east side, two or three miles above the present village of Binghamton, in the forepart of

winter. But at this treaty the negociation was not fully completed, and they adjourned to meet at the Forks of the Chenango. At this second treaty, there were between three and four hundred Indians.

At this and the former treaty, it is said, the Indians, who were furnished with provisions and liquor at the expense of the company, would get drunk, almost to a man, by night, but be sober through the day. While the subjects of the treaty were under discussion from day to day, they would sit in circles upon the ground, and listen with the utmost decorum. Their chiefs, when they spoke, would speak in substance, if not in form, in accordance with parliamentary rule. Captain, and afterwards Esquire, Dean was their interpreter, and did their business.

The nominal sum paid for this tract is not now known, but the payment was made, one half in money, and the other moiety in goods, consisting of rifles, hatchets, ammunition, blankets, and woollen cloths. The last, it is said, the savages, in perfect character with their taste, immediately tore into strings for ornament.

An estimation was made of the entire cost of these ten townships, to wit: the purchase price, the expense of the treaties, and the survey made of it, and found to amount to about one shilling per acre. The number of acres contained in the tract, as has just been stated, was 230,000 square acres. This, equally divided among the sixty proprietors, would give to each 3833 acres, with a fraction over. The price for which the land was sold, in the earliest sale of it, was uniformly at twenty-five cents per

acre ; but it, after a little, rose to one dollar per acre, and even to more.

The land upon the shores of the two rivers, and for some distance back, was, even at the time of the purchase, partially cleared, so far as the Indians have their lands cleared. The under-brush was cleared, having been kept down by burning, and grass growing on the flats. The Indians uniformly keep down the shrubby part of their hunting grounds, that they may, with the more facility, discover and pursue their game. Col. Rose says, that he could see deer upon the mountains immediately back of him for a half mile, so free were they of under-brush. He observes, also, that the woods exhibited a sombre appearance, from their annual burnings. The large Island opposite Judge Stoddard's, was, when the first settlers came, covered with grass and the anacum weed, a tall kind of weed, the roots of which they were in the habit of digging and drying, and then grinding or pounding for bread stuff; or rather its apology, perhaps, when their corn failed them.

The Indians in their treaty with the New England commissioners, reserved to themselves the right of hunting upon the lands they had sold, for the term of seven years ; and also made a reserve of one half mile square, as their own possession. This reserve was situated near the mouth of Castle creek, and went by the name of the Castle Farm. Upon this reserve the Indians of the neighborhood who did not remove to New Stockbridge, or Oneida, resided. Their number on the farm is said to have been about twenty families. They by no means

confined themselves to this little spot. They cultivated the ground of the farm, more or less, but depended chiefly, in accordance with their long custom and native propensity, upon hunting and fishing.

It is said there was one elderly person among them who had all their manners and followed their customs, but was evidently no Indian. He was of fair or light complexion; had a fine pair of blue eyes, and formed otherwise like a white man. The supposition with regard to him is, that he had been taken from his parents or friends when a child, and brought up by them. It is well known that they often adopt white children taken as prisoners, and bring them up as their own. Their custom is, whenever any of themselves are either slain or taken prisoners in battle, to give to the nearest relative of the dead or missing, a prisoner whom they have taken in battle. If they have taken no prisoner, they give them a scalp of the enemy. If the bereaved friends receive a *prisoner*, it is left to their option either to satiate their vengeance by putting him to death in the most cruel manner, or to receive and adopt him into their family, in place of the lost relative. In such cases, good looking children are most always saved. The man had an Indian wife and several children.

The Indians kept up their peculiar mode of dress so long as they remained upon their farm; clothing themselves with their shirt and moccasins, their head bare, except sometimes ornamenting it with feathers, and wearing jewels of silver in their nose and ears. Their wigwams were built of logs, lock-



ed together at the ends, and sloping upon two sides from the ground to a peak, like the roof of a house.

Another form of their wigwams was, to erect four stakes, or crotches, two longer and two shorter; upon these to lay two poles, one upon the longer, the other upon the shorter crotches. Upon these poles they would lay sticks or smaller poles and then barks, with sufficient ingenuity to exclude the rain and weather. From the lower crotches to the ground they would tie barks, answering to our weather boarding. They would close up the two ends in the same manner. Upon the front side were suspended skins of deer sewed together, from the pole upon the high crotches to the ground; and which they could raise or fall at pleasure. Before this their fire was kindled, and the curtain of skins raised by day time, and more or less lowered by night, as the weather might be. In some cases they would have their wigwams lined with deer skins. Seldom any floor but the ground. Their bed consisted of straw, or skins thrown down. When they sat down, it was always upon the ground. In eating, they sat generally without any order, as they happened to be, upon the ground, with each his piece in his hand. Their adroitness in spearing fish was admired by the whites, in which they displayed as much marksmanship as they do with the bow and arrow. They would *throw* the spear at the fish, which very seldom failed of transfixing its object, though the distance to which it was thrown should be twenty or thirty feet, the fish moving rapidly at the same time, and the water sunning swift.



Their chief was called Squire Antonio. This title was given him by the whites on account of his just decisions, his correct judgment, and his sober habits. He was very much esteemed by the white people, as well as revered and loved by his own. He undoubtedly contributed very materially towards maintaining that peaceful and friendly, or at least orderly, conduct which the Indians have the good name of having observed towards the whites. All the old and early inhabitants, who are still living, say they never had any serious difficulty with the Indians. They always made it a point to use them well; and the same conduct it seems was by them uniformly reciprocated. They mention a few exceptions, if exceptions they should be called, which occurred almost entirely from the effects of liquor. Their pacific deportment, however, besides the influence of their chief, owed its origin undoubtedly to the just and equitable manner in which the primitive settlers obtained the title of their land from them, the fewness of their own number, and especially the comparatively late and effectual drubbing they had received from Gen. Sullivan and his army. For it seems to have been fresh still in their memory. What part the Indians who resided in this region took in opposing the march of that army into their country, we have no means of ascertaining to a certainty. The primitive inhabitants seem to have esteemed it prudent not to converse much, if any, with them on the subject. They, however, were undoubtedly engaged with their brethren in arms, according to indirect testimony, as will hereafter appear.

## CHAPTER IV.

THE same year in which Capt. Leonard, Colonel Rose, and the two Mr. Whitneys came into these parts, came also several others with their families. Lyon, who has already been spoken of, and who afterward kept for several years the ferry across the Chenango river, about where Col. Lewis' Mills now are. Jesse Thayer settled where Christopher Eldredge now lives. Peter and Thomas Ingersoll settled where James Hawley now lives. Samuel Harding settled on the Bevier place, on the east side of the Chenango. Capt. John Sawtell, opposite the Poor House, and on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Dickson. A Mr. Butler settled a little below Capt. Leonard, and on the river bank. Solomon Moore settled on the site of the present village of Binghamton.

A man by the name of Cole, who lived about two miles above where Col. Rose located himself, lived and died there, was one who had taken shelter here, before any white inhabitant had moved into the parts. He was found here when the earliest settlers came.

Out of regard to the descendants of Mr. Cole, who are said to be numerous and respectable, it might be thought the duty of the writer of these Annals, to suppress the history of his deeds. But the love of truth, which should pervade all minds, even of those more immediately affected by its de-

velopement, should form an ample justification for the narration of so much of his inhumanity as was well known to his cotemporaries. He is said to have been an accomplice in leading on the Indians in that most inhuman massacre at Wyoming, and also that of Minnisink. It is said, that while engaged in this infernal employment at the latter place, an Indian, who was about to seize a child, lying in its cradle, in order to dash its brains out, felt his heart misgive in its cruelty, by the babe's smiling upon him; and was about turning away from the deed, when Cole, observing him to hesitate, said, with an oath, "Is your heart too tender for your work?" Upon this he seized the little innocent, and terminated its tender life against the door post.

A few years after Mr. Cole had settled here, there came two young men into the neighborhood from Minnisink, enquiring for him; whose parents, according to their narrative, he had murdered. Cole himself had moved to this place from Minnisink. Hearing where the author of their parents' untimely and bloody death was living, they came all the way from their own neighborhood, with the sworn purpose to kill him. They were armed with rifles; and upon arriving here they met with Col. Rose and Judge Whitney, who were engaged in their fields. They made enquiries of these men respecting Cole, and finding them frank and candid in their answers, and acquainted with the reputed fact, that Cole had been engaged in the massacre of their devoted neighborhood, they ventured to inform them of the object of their errand, tragical as it was in-

tended to be. Mr. Whitney and Mr. Rose, though they could not altogether condemn the heroic and natural spirit of revenge of these young men, yet they felt strongly inclined, principally from a regard to his family, to dissuade them from their purpose. While these gentlemen were talking with the young men, Cole appeared in sight ; they beckoned to him to turn away, which intimation he understood and obeyed. They stated to these young men, that Cole was now settled among them, and had a family about him ; that it was a long time ago when the deed was done, and also in a time of war. The youth, moved with what had been said to them, relinquished their purpose and returned. Mr. Cole was, after this, careful of exposing himself, when he came to learn that it was known in Minnisink where he was.

Captain Leonard, upon one occasion, being at Tioga Point in company with Cole, found it necessary to get him out of the way of two men, who, he found, were taking this opportunity to kill him. The manner of his death, finally, might be considered as a judicial punishment for the barbarity of which he had been guilty. He died a miserable lingering death, occasioned by the fall of the roof of his house.

One Tom Hill, who died a few years since, having been a town charge of this place for many years, was also, it is ascertained, engaged in the massacres of Wyoming and Minnisink. He married a squaw, the celebrated *Queen Easter*, who distinguished herself at the massacre at Wyoming.

Soon after the settlement of the emigrants al-

ready mentioned, the next year, other families to the number of about twenty, came and settled in the region. These greatly added to the privation and want which were already experienced by the original emigrants. The hospitality, however, of these earlier emigrants failed them not, even in this severe trial of it; but was extended to the wants of these sufferers, so far as lay in their power, until the latter could, by industry and time, create resources of their own.

It is stated by those still living of the first settlers, that a state of feeling was, on every occasion calculated at all to bring it forth, manifested toward one another, more of the nature of genuine family affection, than of mere neighborhood sympathy. They felt, they say, like the *members* of *one* family; were ready to share the last loaf with him who had none. The families of the last settlers, had verified to them, over and again, the spirit and letter of what has been just stated. The families who had barely more than what they absolutely needed from day to day would impart to those in need, with the same equal and generous hand that a mother distributes her limited store to her hungry children. They would reserve no more to themselves than they parted with. It is a very ancient maxim, found in the writings of Pythagoras, and verified invariably to those who are its subjects, "that true friendship is reciprocal in its nature." Such genuine hospitality and kind feelings as were exemplified from day to day by these early sons of the forest—these pioneers of present fruitful fields and thriving



villages—were almost sure to produce the happy results which followed. It is stated by the present survivors, that there were no serious disputes in their commercial transactions for a series of years ; that for a length of time they had no occasion for magistrate or jury. It was five years from the settlement before they had the semblance of a court. This was held before Esquire Johnson, in the open air, shaded by some trees. When the parties at issue were come together, they were exhorted to adjust their own difference ; the magistrate remarking to them, that he was but a man, and his judgment only that of a man. They, in compliance with his admonition, and in accordance with the spirit of their own bosoms, settled their own difference.

As a matter of course, all the primitive settlers labored with their own hands. The elder Mr. Whitneys themselves working laboriously from day to day. Labor then, and it may easily be imagined what kind it was, was in no disrepute ; and the short time that has elapsed since, has in no wise changed the moral of it. However unpopular with the higher classes labor may have become in these effeminate days, still, while the human constitution remains what it ever has been, no one can exempt himself with impunity. The constitution suffers so soon as it is dispensed with, and uneasiness, ennui, and decay of strength and health ensue.

By their daily and hardy industry, they lay the heads of the lofty pines and sturdy oaks low ; they sever into parts their huge trunks and branches,



and heap them for burning. The ground with its incumbent mass must be burnt over, to make room for the falling seed, and to render the soil more nutritious and of a warmer temperature. Their fields must be fenced, or exposed to the incursion and spoilation of domestic or wild animals. And when their grain is ripened and harvested, they have scarcely any place to dispose of it; some rude hovel or log barn; or it must be stacked out of doors, and threshed out of doors; winnowed by the rude winds of heaven; gathered into a few bags and set in one corner, or swung across the beams of their one room. And when the father or oldest son has leisure, or the necessities or the family urge, he sets out, as it were, upon a little voyage, to be gone many days and nights, with a portion of the crop; that the loaf might not entirely fail. The absence of one out of the family, though it be but a time, is sensibly felt, as a thousand anxieties are felt for the absent one, and but little to cheer those who remain at home.

And generally the dreariness that surrounded them; the lonesomeness of home; the pinching want at times; the homely and exceedingly limited conveniences within doors; the imperfect manner they were defended from the cold and rain; the long and dreary nights of winter, when guests or books were few or none; the often tender circumstances of the wife; the liability of all to diseases, for the amelioration or cure of which there was no physician near; no man of God to watch over their morals and to turn their wayward feet

“unto the wisdom of the just ;” the children growing up in semi-barbarism ; the contrast which the parents would naturally make between the past and the present, would at times press down, undoubtedly, the mind of the father, and still more the naturally anxious and tender mind of the mother.

There were as yet no roads opened, nothing more than Indian paths. The New England emigrants in coming, found scarcely no roads after crossing the Hudson river. The route from the east was by the Catskill ; west of the Catskill to Acre was thirteen miles, where, at the time the Mr. Whitneys came in, Joseph Shaw and Capt. Trowbridge resided. Both of these persons afterwards removed into this country. From Acre to the top of the Catskill Mountain was a distance of ten miles, where there was another white inhabitant ; from thence to Windham, then known as Pataron, were one or two more families ; thence about ten miles to Schoharie Kill ; three miles beyond this, two brothers resided ; thence three miles, Mr. More resided ; the father of John F. More now occupying his place ; from More’s to Harpersfield, about twenty miles, five or six families had settled ; from this place to Franklin, about thirty-five miles, the families of the Mr. Whitneys were the first that attempted a passage with wagons ; from Franklin to Ouliout, eight miles, was a settlement ; thence to the mouth of the Unadilla, where a few families were settled ; thence down to Oquago, now Windsor, were five or six families ; among them, Harper and Hotchkiss. Following down the Susquehannah, the Mr. Whitneys

found at the Great Bend two or three families more. On the Chenango, resided the families that have already been mentioned ; and at the Forks there resided a Mr. Gallop ; but beyond the Forks, either on the Chenango or Onondaga, there were no white inhabitants ; from the Unadilla to this place there was only an Indian trail.

The roads that were first opened, were merely the Indian paths taken and followed where they were eligible, and the fallen logs, the underbrush, and so many of the saplings cut out of the way as would admit a wagon to pass ; curving when large trees interposed. Roads of this description in a few years were laid, or rather cut, to some distance on both sides of the Chenango, generally where they now run ; and also on the village side of the Susquehannah, both above and below the village. In 1788 a sleigh road was opened to the Unadilla.

Conveying their grain to mill, which was, at first, the chief business that took them from home, was performed through the medium of canoes upon the river. Their nearest place to get grinding done was either at Tioga Point, or rather three miles this side, at Shepherd's Mills, a distance of forty miles ; or else they must traverse the distance of seventy miles up the Susquehannah to Wattles' Ferry. These jaunts would occupy a week, and sometimes a fortnight. A considerable portion of their corn, however, was pounded, and thus converted into samp, by the simple machinery of a stump hollowed out for a mortar, and a pestle suspended by a sweep.

The Indians raised corn and potatoes, from whom

seed was procured ; but seed for other growing was brought from the Hudson. Flour, what little was had, was brought from the Hudson, or brought up the Susquehannah in canoes from Wyoming.

Many of the conveniences, however, and some of the luxuries of life, in a few years arose to take the place of the partial or entire destitution of those things which are considered essential even to a moderate share of the enjoyments of life. And it is only in anticipation of brighter days and easier circumstances, that the first settlers of a new country are willing to incur the hardships of a pioneer life. The prospects of our heroes of the forest began now to brighten, when they found they could raise grain and vegetables of every kind abundant for their own consumption, and accumulating, over and above, for market. Their cattle also multiplying upon their hands and affording a surplus for market. But foreign articles, however, of every description, were, as yet, principally confined to the few that were brought in at first, as the costly and choice items in the invoice of their household stuff.

So soon as any found themselves able, they were forward to erect mills ; as their great utility and need had been fully felt. A saw mill was built in 1788, on Castle creek, owned by Henry French. This was the first in the country ; and in 1790, the first grist mill was built on Fitch's creek, now in the town of Conklin.

Besides these already mentioned, in the first or second season, came John Miller, Esq., his son-in-law Mr. Moore, and Mr. Luce, and settled on the

east side of the Chenango river, where the new bridge crosses that river. These men and their families were originally from New Jersey. They had the beautiful, though fated, country of Wyoming in view, when they started from home ; but here they remained only a short time ; the conflicting state of things urged them to leave. Mr. Miller appears to have been the earliest magistrate in the settlement. He had acted in that capacity in New Jersey. He was also a member of the Presbyterian church, and had the reputation here of being pious ; eminently so. While the country was without a regular ministry, he was in the habit of conducting public worship on the Sabbath, which was held uniformly at Samuel Harding's, who lived where Capt. De Forest now does. He and his daughters would walk down on the Sabbath, a distance of four miles.

In the summer of 1789, a very considerable accession was made by persons who settled both upon the valley of the Susquehannah and that of the Chenango. Daniel Hudson settled between Captain Leonard's and Colonel Rose's. He was Major and afterward Judge. Jonathan Fitch settled upon the creek that took his name ; Mr. Fitch was from Wyoming ; was a merchant there, and had been Sheriff of the county. He was a man of considerable native talent, had evidently mingled much with men of information, and was polished in his manners. He was the first representative to the State Legislature from the new county of Tioga. Some say, however, that Gen. Patterson, who settled in early day on the



Onondaga, at what is called now Whitney's Point, was the earliest representative of the county.

Mr. Howe, a Baptist minister, came in the third summer, and settled near where Deacon Stow now lives. He officiated in his sacred capacity after his settlement, and was successful in gathering and forming a church, consisting at first of ten or twelve persons. These were said to be principally the fruits of a revival which took place under his ministry. He, however, notwithstanding his success in gathering a church of so goodly a number for that early day, staid but a very few years. He was succeeded by Elder Fisk. The number of members never increased much beyond its first amount, but rather diminished and continued to dwindle until about the year 1800, when it became extinct. This was the earliest christian society.

There was also a Dutch Reformed church established in about the year 1798, through the official labors of Mr. Manley, a Dutch Reformed minister.

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## CHAPTER V.

It has been already observed, that the conduct of the Indians towards the first settlers was, in the main, pacific ; so far so, indeed, as to relieve the latter from any distressing anxiety as to their personal safety ; especially, after a sufficient time had been allowed for the manifestation of those feelings which evidently existed, with slight and occasional exceptions, in the minds of both parties. The Indians were more than *negatively* pacific in their deport-



ment ; they are said to have been *inclined* to the society of the whites. They acknowledged their superiority without apparently being jealous of it, or hating it. If they felt aggrieved, they were free to make it known to them, to have it, if possible, peaceably adjusted. As they could talk intelligible English, they would mingle more or less with their white brethren, especially when the time or the weather suspended their labors. The children of the white population would often play with the Indian papooses. Those who were children then, and yet living, say, they have played with the Indian children many an hour. Some of the plays had been handed down in the line of Indian ancestry, and some in the line of American or *English* ancestry. The plays of children are very ancient. Some of those now extant, and very common, were known to the Grecian and Roman children.

The exceptions to peaceful conduct on the part of the Indians that are mentioned by the early settlers, are but few, though somewhat interesting ; and therefore may be mentioned. One is mentioned by Col. Rose. He says, he came in one afternoon from work, and found an Indian, whom he well knew, in the house, standing before his wife, who was combing her hair, which was hanging down before her eyes ; so that she did not observe the Indian. He stood with his knife, which they almost invariably carried with them, in his hand and pointing it towards her breast. Col. Rose, observing it, spoke with alarm, with earnestness, and with not a little anger, and demanded what he meant ? The Indian

turned away with a laugh, and said he only wanted something to eat. The Col. thinks the Indian did not intend to hurt his wife, but only to frighten her, that she might the more readily comply when he should ask for food.

Another instance is mentioned by Mr. Abraham Bevier, relating to his father. His father, he says, was returning from the village, which at this time, it seems, had begun to be built up, and was accosted by an Indian, whom he well knew, and whom he had met with in the village, and treated with some liquor he had been buying, and was then carrying home. The Indian, knowing he had the liquor on board his wagon, hailed him as he passed, and asked for more. Mr. Bevier, thinking, as we have a right to suppose, that the Indian had had already enough, whipped up his horses, with the design of escaping from his importunity. But the Indian, laying hold of the wagon's wheel, to prevent its going on, was partly thrown under it, and, it may be, more or less hurt. On leaving the wagon he took a circuit into the woods, under his full speed, and when he had attained a sufficient compass, as he supposed, to come out ahead of the wagon, he came down to the road in order to head Mr. Bevier; but not being soon enough to reach the wagon, which Mr. Bevier shoved with the speed of his horses, he, in a rage, brandished his knife; showing the former what he would have done, had he got hold of him. It is most probable, however, that the conduct and manifested rage of the Indian is to be attributed, on this occa-

sion, to the effects of inebriation, rather than to native ferocity.

Mr. William Rose, son of Col. Rose, relates an anecdote of himself: When a small boy, he, with two other boys, were playing down by the river side, when they spied some Indians passing at a little distance. Supposing themselves not seen by them, as boys are too apt to do, commenced an insulting halloo to them. The Indians immediately made for them through the bushes, which young William observing, up and scampered; the other boys kept themselves hid. One of the Indians took after him. He was about a mile from home. He ran with all his speed, and the Indian near behind him, and would, now and then say, in this hard contested race, "barm by, me catch em yankee." When he got to his father's door he fell, almost lifeless, into the house. The Indian observing him safely arrived at home, turned and went back. Mr. Rose supposes the Indian did this to punish, and that very justly, his impertinence.

There is an ingredient which runs through the entire history of this "scattered and pealed" people, especially that part of it which relates to their proximity and relation to white people, that is appropriately calculated to touch our sympathies. I allude to the repeated wrongs they have received from civilized and christian white men: and also to the *fact*, that they are withering away from the face of a civilized population, and disappearing fast from the earth. Their constant diminution and prospective annihilation arise principally from two causes:

the moral impossibility of their amalgamating with European descent, and the cupidity of white men for their lands.

As a practical exemplification of what has just been stated, we might instance the manner in which their Castle farm, the small reserve they made to themselves, was obtained from them.

In about the year 1792 or '3, an individual by the name of Patterson, living in the neighborhood, and acquainted with the Indians—whether at his own instigation or induced by some one of the Massachusetts company, is not known—undertook with a good deal of artifice, to get the farm out of their hands. He went to the Indians at the Castle, and made himself very familiar and sociable with them. He brought with him a silver mounted rifle, which he knew would gain their admiration and excite their cupidity. Abraham Antonio, the son of the chief, was smitten with a desire for it. He endeavored to purchase it, making such offers as he could afford. But Patterson put him off, telling him he did not wish to sell it; or setting such a price upon it as he knew was beyond the power of Abraham immediately to command. After he had sufficiently prepared the way for himself, he proposed to the young chief, that if he would engage to give him so many bear skins, he would let him have the rifle. This the prince complied with. A note was required on the part of Patterson, with the son and father's name subscribed, that the skins should be delivered against a specified time. Abraham hesitated as to such a course, as he did not understand such a mode of

business. He therefore asked his father as to the propriety, who told his son it was a common mode of doing business with the whites. Patterson then *professedly* wrote a *note*, specifying the number of skins, and read it off to the father and son accordingly, who both signed their names. But instead of writing a *note*, he wrote a *deed* for the Castle farm. This deed, with the father and son's signature, he took to the Boston company, and boasted of his success.

When the Indians came to find that they had, unknowingly, conveyed away their farm and settlement, through the artifice and treachery of this man, they swore vengeance upon him. They retained a sense of the wrong, unabated, until the perpetration of the deed had, in their estimation, received its merited punishment, for which, it seems, an opportunity was afterward found. For, previously to Wayne's expedition against the Indians of Ohio, which took place in 1794, Abraham Antonio, who was decidedly of a warlike disposition, had gone into Ohio to join his brethren in arms there. While there, either by accident, or by his indefatigable search and enquiry, he obtained intelligence respecting Patterson, who had moved out into this country. He hastened to wreak his vengeance upon him. He found him, and massacred both him and his family. At least, such were the inferences drawn by the neighborhood after Abraham's return. He confessed he found him.

Col. Rose remarks that Abraham was the only Indian he was afraid of; and gives an anecdote to



show the reason he had to fear him. After the village—the *old* village most probably—began to be settled, and afforded a market for such articles as they had to dispose of, the Indians often went down to trade ; and received in return rifles sometimes, hatchets, knives, blankets, trinkets, together with whiskey ; of which latter, it is well known, they were very fond.

Upon a time, when several of them had been to the village, the old chief Antonio himself, his son Abraham, and Seth the interpreter, composing a part of the company, they all stopped, on their way back, at Col. Rose's. He set a long bench, which then served instead of chairs, before the fire for them. He observed, as they came in, that several of them were intoxicated ; and Abraham, he soon discovered, more than any of the rest. The old chief was sober, and so was Seth. He observed, also, that Abraham was angry with his father, and had been, it appeared, quarrelling with him on the way ; probably because the old chief had reproved him for getting drunk, and for his impertinent conduct on the way. All took their seats upon the long bench before the fire, except Abraham, who kept walking the floor. Col. Rose kept his eye upon him, for he did not know what his design might be ; apprehensive, however, that he would attack his father, as some words, in a menacing tone, would, now and then, be uttered. Directly he saw him spring upon his father's back, as he sat immediately before the fire, and thrust him into it. But the Col. was almost as quick, and drew him out. Abraham



then ran and seized an axe, standing in one corner of the room; but the Col. wrested this from him. The Col. then said, we must tie him. Get a rope, then, said Seth; who by this time had laid hold of him too. A rope was procured. They succeeded in tying him. Col. Rose then sat down by the side of him, with his arm laid upon him, and in a feeling and friendly manner, began to reason and expostulate with him, upon his outrageous conduct, and his desperate attempt to burn his father. Abraham soon began to cool down, and to feel the force of these reproofs. He melted into *tears*, and promised to behave himself with becoming propriety, if they would untie him. He was set at liberty, and fulfilled his promise. He behaved himself for that time. But Col. Rose said he had reason to think that the young prince owed him a grudge for his interference; and was afraid to meet him alone, especially after it was strongly suspected that he was guilty of the murder of a white man in Lisle. He murdered his own child, it is said, commanding his wife to throw the child into the fire, merely for its crying.

As it most generally turns out in the course of events—which, after all our scepticism, are guided by an overruling providence—that a violent or bloody course of life is terminated by violent or bloody means; so in the case of Abraham Antonio, the son of so mild and pacific a father. He died by violent hands. He was hung, not many years ago, in Madison, for murdering a man there. Abraham, notwithstanding he was cruel and revengeful, yet was well

behaved ordinarily, and an Indian of more than ordinary abilities.

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## CHAPTER VI.

IN the year 1791 or '2, the present Gen. Joshua Whitney was sent by his father to Philadelphia, with a drove of cattle, seventeen in number ; the greater part of the way being nothing but a wilderness. While this undertaking shows the enterprize of the father, and the ready obedience and courage, if not equal enterprize, of the son, in committing himself alone, for he went alone, to the dreariness and waste of an almost pathless wilderness ; it also, in the details of it, developes the many obstacles that lay in the way of sending their surplus cattle and produce to market ; and also of importing back the goods which are to be obtained only from some seaport town or city.

Young Whitney, then only about twenty years of age, started late in the fall. He went by the way of the Great Bend ; thence to the Salt Lick farm, six miles beyond ; thence through the Nine Partners, to a place called Hop-Bottom, on the Tunkhannoc Creek ; thence, with no road but marked trees, to Thorn-Bottom, twenty-five miles from the Nine Partners. The habitations of men to be met with, only about where it was necessary to stay through the night. And at these places there was nothing for the cattle to subsist upon but browsing in the woods. Consequently, in ranging for food through the night,

they were subject to straying so far as not to be found by the young herdsman. By his vigilance, however, though he had often no little trouble to gather his number together in the morning, he lost none. From Thorn-Bottom he proceeded to the Lackawanna; thence ten miles to Wilksbarre; from this place he drove to one branch of the Lehigh, twenty miles. Upon this part of his journey his cattle became poisoned by eating *laurel*, which operated upon them so severely by salivation and otherwise, that he was obliged to suspend his journey for more than a week, at a small Dutch settlement three miles on this side of the Pocono Mountains. The night previously to his arriving at this settlement he was so nearly drained of his funds by an exorbitant charge of his miscreant landlord, who charged him four or five times the usual bill, that he was obliged to write from this place to his father, stating his circumstances. His father came to his relief. His Dutch host and family, and indeed the whole neighborhood, could scarcely understand a word of English, so that he was obliged to communicate by signs, as well as he could. After his father came and replenished his purse, with his cattle well, and his courage renewed, he proceeded on to Philadelphia, by the way of what is called the Wind Gap, and through Nazareth.

After disposing of his cattle, in returning, he was to bring back mercantile goods; which, after procuring, he put on board Pennsylvania wagons, and brought them to Middletown, ninety miles from Philadelphia. At Middletown they were put on board

of what was called a Durham boat, pushed by six hands. All the way from this place to Owego, a distance of two hundred and fifty-five miles, this boat was urged by the sturdy strength of six men, where force was in requisition the most of the time, in consequence of the strong current that was opposing them; often obliged to be out himself midway in the water, with cakes of ice floating against him, and that too for hours together. He arrived at Owego a little before Christmas.

Nothing could better illustrate the difficulties and the expense which must be encountered to transmit their effects to market and merchandize back. Every newly settled place or country is, at first, without resources of its own, and must depend on some foreign mart. An intercourse between the two must take place, or there will be no growth of the former, much less any sources of wealth and improvement. And those who lead the way in opening an intercourse with foreign places of trade, must have the credit of originating the sources, first of the necessities and conveniences of life, and then of the wealth and improvement of the place.

Mr. Whitney the elder, and father of Joshua, of whom we have just spoken, was not spared long to his family and neighborhood, and to witness the growing improvements that were destined to take place around him. He died of a yellow fever on his return from Philadelphia, where he had been to purchase goods. By a previous arrangement, his son was to meet him at Wilksbarre with boats to bring on the goods. When he got there he found a

letter from his father, informing him of his sickness, at a public house at the Wind Gap, and with word for him to come immediatly to him. By riding very early and late, the next day he arrived there, just in time to see his father alive, and to close his eyes after the spirit had fled ; which he did with his own hands. He found the landlord and his family much alarmed at the infectious nature of the disease his father had, and even advised *him* not to go in where his father was. To this he paid no attention. The landlord, after death had taken place, insisted upon the old gentleman's being buried that same night, lest the infection, with which the disease was supposed to be fraught, should spread. This, through the force of circumstances, he consented to. A coffin was hurriedly made, and the son literally carried out and buried his own father, with the help only of two negro servants.

In early times, when the country was first settled, and for a long time since, shad ran up the Susquehannah in great numbers as far as Binghamton, and even some to the source of the river. Thousands of them were caught from year to year, in this vicinity, especially at the three great fishing places, at Union, opposite Judge Mersereau's ; at this place, [Binghamton] opposite the dry bridge ; and upon the point of an Island at Oquago. There were two other places of less note ; one on the Chenango, opposite Mr. Bevier's ; the other was at the mouth of Snake creek. The time that the shad would arrive here, and at which time they began to be caught, would generally be about the last of April, and the



fishing would continue through the month of May. It was made quite a business by some, and after the country was sufficiently filled in with inhabitants to create a demand for all that could be caught, the business became a source of considerable profit. During a few of the first runs, the shad would sell for eight and ten pence a piece; and after this the price generally depreciated down as low as three pence per shad. Several hundred would sometimes be caught at one draught. Herring also ran up at the same time with the shad; but as it was no object to catch them while a plenty of shad could be caught, their nets were so constructed as to admit them through the meshes.

The nets employed were from sixteen to thirty rods long; and employed each net, from six to eight men to manage them. Their time for sweeping was generally in the night, as the shallowness of the water would not allow them to fish in the day time. Again the shad would in the night run up on the riffles to sport; which gave to the fisherman another advantage. They would make their hauls the darkest nights, without lights, either in their boats or on shore. They had their cabins or tents to lodge in; and would be notified when it was time to haul, by the noise the shoal of fish would make in sporting on the shallow places.

The shad seemed never to find either a place or time at which to turn and go back. Even after depositing their eggs, they would continue to urge their way up stream, until they had exhausted their entire strength; which would, being out of their



salt-water element, after a while fail them. The shores, in consequence, would be strewed with their dead bodies, through the summer, upon which the wild animals would come down and feed. Their young fry would pass down the stream in the fall, having grown now to the length of three or four inches, in such numbers as to choke up the eel-weirs.

They have discontinued running up so far as this, for twelve or fifteen years ; consequently none within that time have been caught. The numerous mill-dams and mills on the streams, together with the number of rafts that pass down in the spring, undoubtedly deter them from coming.

As we have spoken of *fishing* in early days, which was so different from what it is at present, so will we speak of the *hunting* of early times.

It is allowed by the old hunters that wild animals were uncommonly plenty here when the country was first settled. Martins were plenty, and caught in dead-falls for their fur. Panthers were frequently met with and shot by hunters. Bears were numerous and large. Wild cats were also found. But deer, which may be considered the staple commodity with hunters in a new country, were decidedly numerous. They would be seen sometimes twenty and thirty in a flock. Of this species of game great numbers were yearly killed. There appear to have been no wild turkies found here when the country was first settled. A solitary flock, some twenty-five or thirty years ago appear to have wandered from its own native forests, and was observ-

ed in the neighborhood of Oquago by Deacon Stow, who was at that day a distinguished hunter. He dropped his work in the field, and obtaining a gun from the nearest neighbor, he managed to kill one, before the flock got entirely out of his way. It remained in the neighborhood forest, until the turkies were all shot, except the last one, which was caught in a trap.

There were several modes of hunting the deer. Besides the ordinary way of pursuing them by daylight with hounds, the hunters would resort to the deer-licks, of which there were many, and ascertaining, as nearly as they could, where they stood to lap the water, they would set their guns so as to take the deer when they came by night to drink. This they would do before night-fall, and then remain by their guns and watch. They could hear the deer when in the act of drinking, by the noise they made in lapping the water. This was their time to let off their guns, which they often would do, several together. If they heard the deer fall, they went and cut its throat, or their throats, as they sometimes shot more than one at a discharge, and brought them off the ground. They would then set their guns again, and wait for the well-known sound of the lapping to be renewed. They would continue their vigilance according to their success; sometimes till twelve and two, and sometimes till quite the dawn of the next morning. The dressing of the game was ordinarily reserved till the next day.

Another mode pursued by the hunters was, to take the deer when they came down late in the sum-

mer or fall to feed upon the sedge or eel grass which grows in the river. Two men would get into a skiff, or boat of any kind that would answer the purpose, in which there was a platform in the fore-part covered with turf; upon this they would kindle a brisk fire, and one would sit in the fore-part, near the fire, with his rifle in his hand; the other would sit in the hinder-part and impel and guide the boat with a single paddle, taking care to make no noise, either in the water or at the side of the boat. The deer, at seeing the moving fire, would raise their heads and stamp with their feet, without moving much from their place, even at quite a near approach of the boat. This would enable the hunters to come as near to their game as they wished, and to make sure their aim. Sometimes they would take their stand upon the shore and watch by moonlight. It has been remarked by these hunters, and probably observed by a great many others, that deer when seen by the light of fire, in a certain position, look white.

A story is told of two of the early settlers of Oquago, one a Dutchman by the name of Hendrickson, the other a yankee by the name of Merryman. They had been in the habit of going together to a little Island in the Susquehannah, called Fish Island, to watch for deer, with the understanding always, that each was to share equally in the game. One fine evening, while the moon was shining in its fullness, it occurred to the Dutchman that he would go down to the Island and watch for deer, without letting his brother yankee know of it. The same

thought occurred to the yankee. They both went down to the Island and took their stations *accidentally*, at each end. In the course of the evening, while waiting for deer, to their apprehension, two made their appearance and entered the river, and passing by the upper end of the Island were fired upon by the *yankee*, whose station happened to be at that end; the *deer* bounded, with a mighty splash, down stream; and passing the *lower* end of the Island were fired upon by the *Dutchman*, whose shot took effect and brought *one* down. As the latter went out to drag in his game, the yankee called out and claimed the *deer*, as he had fired first. The Dutchman muttered some objection, and continued wading. When he came up to the weltering and dying animal, to his surprise, instead of a large deer, which he was in full expectation of, behold! he had killed one of his neighbor's young cattle—a two-year old heifer; and which he readily recognized. “Well, den,” said he to his companion, who was making his way down to him, “you may have de *deer*; it is your’s, I believe.” The yankee, when he came to find also what had been done, and feeling they were both about equally implicated, proposed that they should send the animal down stream, and say nothing about the matter, as they could not afford to pay for it. The Dutchman—and here we see the characteristic honesty of the one, as well as the characteristic *dishonesty* or *disingenuousness* of the other—objected; saying, they would take it to the owner, and tell him how they came to shoot it; and as it would, when dressed, be very good eating,

he did not think they should be charged very high for the accident. While they were disputing which course they should pursue, they heard at some little distance near the shore, or upon it, a noise and difficult breathing, as of an animal dying; they went to it, and partly hid among weeds and grass, they found, to their further dismay, *another* heifer, belonging to *another* neighbor, in her last struggles, having received her death-wound from the first shot. The yankee now insisted, with greater importunity, that they should send them both down stream, as they could never think of paying for them both. But the Dutchman as strenuously objected, and proposed that the yankee should go the next morning to the owner of one, and he would go to the owner of the other, and make proposals of restitution on as favorable terms as they could obtain. The yankee finally acceded; and each went the next morning to his respective man. The yankee made a reluctant acknowledgment of what had been done the night before, and showed but little disposition to make restitution. The owner was nearly in a rage for the loss of his fine heifer, and was hard in his terms of settlement. While the Dutchman, as if to be rewarded for his honesty, found his neighbor, when he had announced what he had done, and proposed to make satisfactory restitution, as ready to exact no more from him, than to dress the animal, and to take half of the meat home for his own use.

Another distinguished hunter of these early times, and one that was considered pre-eminent above all the others for markmanship and daring feats, was



Jotham Curtis, of Windsor, an uncle to the Mr. Rexfords, Druggists, in the village of Binghamton. An anecdote or two, related of him, will best express his celebrity.

He went out of an afternoon to a *deer-lick*, and having killed a deer, he dressed it and hung the body upon a tree, bringing only the skin home with him. This he threw upon a work-bench in an apartment of the house he used as a shop. In the night he was awakened by a noise which he supposed to proceed from a dog at his deer-skin. He sprung up and opened the door that led into his shop; and about over the work-bench he beheld the glare of *two eye-balls*, which he knew—so versed was he in the appearance of such animals—to be those of a panther. Without taking his eye from those of the animal, he called to his wife to light a pine stick, and to hand it to him, with his rifle, which she did. With the torch in his left hand, and the gun resting upon the same arm, he took his aim between the eyes, and shot the panther dead upon the bench. It is related to have been a very large one. It had entered the shop through an open window.

He was one day hunting, and came across two cubs. He caught one, and seating himself by a tree, with his back close to it, that he might be sure to see the old one when she should come up. He took the young one between his knees and commenced squeezing its head, to make it cry, which he knew would be likely to bring up the old one. In a short time she was seen coming with full speed, with her hair turned forward, an indication of rage, and her

mouth wide open. He waited deliberately, till she was near enough, and then, with his unerring fire, he brought her to the ground. Some one asked him afterward, what he supposed would have been the consequence had his gun missed fire? O! he said, he did not *allow* it to miss in such emergencies.

As anecdotes of this nature are not uninteresting, and serve to illustrate the nature and habits of wild animals, we will relate one more of Deacon Stow, and an older brother of his.

They went out to a deer-lick, called by the hunters *Basin Lick*, in the afternoon, with the design of setting their guns at night. They, however, previously took stations, the brother at the Basin Lick, and Deacon Stow, then but a lad, at a station about twenty rods distance, to watch for deer, which often came on to the licks towards night. While at their respective posts, about sundown, Deacon Stow heard an uncommon noise, more resembling the squealing of pigs than any thing he could think of; and directly he saw a she bear jump upon the root of a large hemlock tree that had been blown down, at the top of which he was sitting, with three large cubs close behind her. She appeared to be about weaning them, and her refusing to let them suck, was the occasion of their making so much noise. As she mounted the trunk at the root, she turned and was making her way towards the top, putting in jeopardy the life of the lad, who was just preparing to fire, when the brother, who heard the noise also, and understood what it was, had hastened down to the place, fired his piece, and dropped the bear from

the trunk ; and then threw his hat and made a loud outcry to frighten the cubs up into the trees. He succeeded in treeing them ; but the old bear, who was only wounded, had made off. They shot two of the cubs, but the third, dropping himself from the tree upon which he was, made his escape ; the younger brother not being allowed by the elder to shoot. This he had the precaution to do, that they might have *one loaded gun*, in case the old bear should return upon them.

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## CHAPTER VII.

THE earliest christian society that was established within the bounds of the settlement, was, as has already been observed, a Baptist church, formed under the ministration of Elder Howe, a very early settler in the place.

The next christian society was a Dutch Reformed church, established in about the year 1798, through the official labors of Mr. Manly, a Dutch Reformed minister.

The building occupied by the Dutch Reformed congregation, as a meeting house, was a dwelling house, the chamber of which was fitted with conveniences for public worship. Mr. Manly, the minister, with his family, lived in the lower part. The building stood about a mile above the village, on the Chenango, east bank, a little behind or back of Mr. Eben. Green's. It is yet in existence, and would not be distinguished from a barn, for which it is now

used. Mr. Manly preached alternately at this place and at Union, and thus divided his labors between the two places. His preaching and labors were continued to these congregations but a few years ; he left, and they were without a minister for some length of time. Their next clergyman was a Mr. Palmer. He revived the church and augmented its number.

There were a few Presbyterians in the settlement, but not enough to form a church, till after the building of the village. And when their numbers and interest became sufficient to form a church and congregation, the Dutch Reformed church differing so little from the Presbyterian, merged into it. A number, however, that were members of the Dutch Reformed church, removed to the Genesee.

The state of morals from the first settlement to the building of the village, differed in no material respect from what is commonly exemplified in other new settlements. We might except, what is certainly natural and important, that the most of the original settlers coming from a land then noted for "steady habits," gave a sanction and tone to good morals, which might not otherwise have been felt. While the inhabitants were few and scattered, they were under that moral restraint and motive to virtue, with greater freedom from incentives to vice, which are found to exist chiefly in the domestic or family relation ; especially when that relation is exempt from neighborhood broils, and more important collisions ; and when the general intercourse is no greater than what is friendly and cordial.

As the population increased, morals degenerated. The influence of the *example* of the *many*, is always bad. Hunting, with other idle and dissolute means of passing the Sabbath, became prevalent on that day. Intemperance crept in and prevailed the more when men could meet together in any considerable numbers. And as men became more numerous, they grew more selfish; the bitter fruits of which were more and more apparent and felt. Society became divided into distinct classes; trifling distinctions made among its members calculated only to foster the pride of some, and the mortification or chagrin, or hatred of others. The charm of fellow-feeling that bound them formerly together, was now broken.

The first school house stood near the Dutch Reformed church, and Col. Rose taught the first school. After a little while this school house was abandoned, and another one built near Mr. Bevier's. Another school house was built upon the west side of the Chenango river, nearly opposite the former. There was only school taught a *few* months in the winter season; some winters passing without any. Their teachers, without an exception, were for a series of years, of their own number; and not *young men*, but men of families. After Col. Rose, a son of Gen. Patterson taught. After him, a Mr. Fay. One Mr. Cook, who came with the Mr. Beviers from Ulster county, taught a number of winters. After him, a Mr. Slichter.

In 1791, that portion of Montgomery county which is now embraced within the counties of



Broome, Tioga and Chemung, was set off as one county, under the name of Tioga; and Elmira, otherwise Newtown, and Binghamton, at that time called Chenango Point, were constituted *each* half-shires. Jonathan Fitch and Joshua Mersereau were appointed Judges. Judge Whitney was appointed a few years afterward. Morgan Lewis, who was afterward Governor of the State, organized and conducted the first court under the new county's authority and provision. It was held for that time at a Mr. Spalding's, who lived on the road to Union, a little beyond, or west of, Oliver Crocker's present residence. After this first one, the courts were held, when not held at Elmira, at Mr. Whitney's, until they were removed to the Court House in Binghamton.

At the organization of the county, the first *first* judge appointed was General John Patterson. His successor in the office of first judge was John Miller. Emanuel Coryell was the third. G. H. Barstow the fourth. Let Burrows the fifth; and G. H. Baldwin the last, before the division of the county, and the formation of Broome. Thomas Nickolson was the first Clerk of Tioga. The records of the county were kept a part of the time at Elmira, a part of the time at Binghamton, and a part of the time at Owego. At the last place the *old* records of Tioga county still remain.

According to the limits which were fixed to the towns into which the new county was divided, that of *Chenango* extended from the Chenango river to Port Deposit, embracing the greater portion of the

eastern part of the county. The first town meeting was held at Oquago, when Nathan Lane was chosen supervisor, and George Harper town clerk. For several years the town meetings continued to be held at this place.

Solomon Moore, who has already been spoken of as among the first settlers, built a log house upon the site of the present village, near as can be recollected, where Mr. Christopher long after built the first house in the rise of the village of Binghamton. He afterwards moved to Vestal, and after residing there some number of years, moved back and purchased where his son, John Moore, now lives, on the south side of the Susquehannah, nearly one mile below the Susquehannah, or, as it is commonly denominated, the white bridge. A Mr. Enos, and a Mr. Sherwood, settled about one mile below Mr. Moore's; and Mr. Nehemiah and Edward Spalding settled still farther down the river.

Those who came in and settled on the east side of the Chenango river, and north of Bingham's Patent, with some exceptions, took no title for their land, but merely *squatted*. At first, the proprietorship of the land was not much known or recognized. But when it became known, and the claims urged by the proprietor or proprietors, the greater part left and went farther west. Capt. Sawtell took a title for his land. The Beviers, when they came in, took titles. David Ogden and Capt. Quigley, who settled next beyond, or farther up the river, took titles from the patent. Beyond these, Joseph Ogden, and next, Ezekiel Crocker; then Capt Buel and his

son settled ; all took titles for their lands, and all within Clinton and Melcher's Patent. John Butler, from Vermont, settled for a few years on the opposite side of the Chenango from Capt. Sawtell's.

In the year 1798, those living upon the Bingham Patent, or the great majority of them, had not taken titles for their land. In this year there was a petition drawn up and signed by most of the inhabitants who had not as yet taken titles, and sent to Mr. Bingham, at Philadelphia. Mr. Ebenezer Park was the bearer of this petition. As it is brief, and couched in very respectful language, it may not be amiss, in order that its import may be understood, to insert it :

“To the Honorable Wm. Bingham :

A petition from the inhabitants and settlers on said Bingham's Patent, on Susquehannah river, in the towns of Union and Chenango, county of Tioga, and state of New-York, humbly prayeth :

That whereas we, your petitioners, having been to considerable expense in moving on said land and making improvements, we pray your honor would grant us three lives lease, and we will pay an annual rent for the same ; otherwise, let us know on what terms we can have the land, and your petitioners, as dutiful tenants, shall ever comply.

Chenango, Feb. 15, 1798.”

This petition was signed by thirty-seven persons. A few objected, contending that Bingham had no right to the land.

As the names of these petitioners, by being inserted, will assist in forming an estimation of the population at that period, as well as afford a knowledge

of the inhabitants who composed it, we shall give them.

Abraham Sneden and Daniel Sneden, who lived where Henry Squires now keeps his public house ; Abraham Sneden, Junior, who lived where Judson Park now lives ; William Miller lived where Mr. Harder now lives ; Ebenezer Park, the father-in-law of Judge Chamberlain, who lived where Ira Stow and the elder Mr. Bartlett now live ; Joseph Compton lived a little east, upon the same lot ; Zachariah Squires and James and Asa Squires lived where Mr. Russ keeps his public house ; James Ford lived where Mr. A. G. Ransom has lately purchased, known by the name of the Moore farm ; Silas Moore, who lived where Mr. E. Brown now does ; Ezra Keeler and Ira Keeler, who lived where James Hawley now lives ; Joseph Lemerick, who lived where Edward Park now lives. Robert Foster and Roswell Jay, who lived where Judson M. Park owns. Nathaniel Taggart, who lived where Elias Jones now does ; John Carr lived on a part of the present farm of Judge Chamberlain ; Arthur Miller lived on the farm where Gen. Whitney now lives ; Barnabas and Solomon Wixon, who lived on the south side of the Susquehannah, where James Evans now lives ; Jonathan Dunham, who lived where Mr. Brigham lately lived ; Zebulon Moore, who lived where James Munsell owns, one mile below the village, on the south side of the Susquehannah ; Daniel Delano and Levi Bennett lived near Millville ; Samuel Bevier occupied a lot upon the Bingham Patent, that Arthur Gray afterward purchased ; James Lion lived at the

ferry, which he kept ; Abraham Carsaw and Wm. Brink, who lived on the Rufus Park place ; Silas Hall, who lived where the wife of Andrew Moore at present lives ; Asher Wickam, who lived where Mr. Brown and Isaac Lion own ; Thomas Cooper, the father of Ransford Cooper, and Walter Slyter, who lived where Deacon Stow now lives ; Andrew Cooper, who occupied the flat from Col. Lewis' Mills down to the red bridge ; David Compton, who lived on the farm and kept the tavern where Mr. Finch now lives ; Amos Towsley, who lived on the south side of the Susquehannah, opposite where Elias Jones now lives ; Judge Chamberlain lived, though a little after the date of the petition, on the lot with his father-in-law, Ebenezer Park.

Judge William Chamberlain, with his wife, moved here from Dutchess county, in 1799. His father-in-law also came from the same county. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1802 ; was appointed Sheriff of the county in 1817, which office he fell short a little of holding the full term of four years ; removed, it appears, through the influence of countervailing politics. After this he was appointed Assistant Justice. Held the office of Judge of Broome county, for seven or eight years. He has held an office in the Vestry of the Episcopal church of Binghamton, either as Warden or Vestryman, nearly ever since that church was organized.

Before there was any village, there were few stores. One important means therefore of obtaining what might here be termed foreign articles, for a series of years, were from pedlars, who came in and purcha-



sed the furs and skins of the inhabitants, and gave them in exchange woollen cloths, hats and shoes.

The first death that occurred in the settlement, was a Mrs. Blunt. She died the first summer of her coming into the parts. Her husband had settled up the Chenango river on the west side, upon the farm afterward owned by Deacon Stow. She died very suddenly, and her death appears to be well remembered by all the primitive settlers. The second death that occurred was that of a young man by the name of Barker, the son of a Mr. Barker who had but just come into the parts, in the year 1789, and had taken up a temporary residence with a Mr. Hurd, who then resided on the north side of the Susquehannah, between Mr. Bartlett's and the river. *He* died suddenly too, of a bilious colic. There was, at this time no physician to be called, otherwise he might have been saved. We shall mention also the third death in the place, both because of its early date, and because of the more than ordinary sympathy it excited. It was that of a young lady, who had, with her father, Nathaniel Lee, and the rest of his family, as early as 1789, migrated into this country from Great Barrington, in Massachusetts. She was a young lady of more than ordinary accomplishments, as well as beauty, having come from a place of polished manners, and about eighteen years of age. Her father had taken up a temporary residence with Mr. Ingersoll, who lived, it will be remembered, on the west side of the Chenango river, and opposite the point. A few months after their arrival, she undertook to cross the Susquehannah

upon the ice to Mr. Thayer's, who, it will be also remembered, lived where Mr. C. Eldredge now does. It was in the latter part of the winter season, when the ice had become weakened; it broke, and she sunk beneath it to rise a lifeless corpse.

In the year 1793, there was a fever and ague prevailed, from which few escaped; otherwise a uniform state of health prevailed for many years after the settlement of the country.

At first there was no public burying ground set off. Those families in which death occurred the earliest, buried their lost relatives near home, upon their own farms; the places of which would naturally become their family burying ground, and the place of interment, in some cases, for the immediate neighborhood.

Mr. Thayer, with several others, was buried upon a spot of ground on the bank of the little run that lets into the Susquehannah, a short distance above where he lived. In consequence of several heavy rains, so much of the bank was carried away as to leave bones exposed. The bones of Mr. Thayer were disinterred by the same means, and carried away by the stream; no part of them being afterward found but the skull. This was sacredly buried in another place.

There has been observed near the bank of this run, for several years back, a monumental stone, rudely cut, bearing a date as rudely wrought, of 1795, but the figure *nine* so imperfectly cut, as easily to be taken for the figure seven. Thus several have been deceived, and read it 1775. This being a date so

long a time previous to the settlement of the country, no one could satisfactorily conjecture what burial it was intended to record. The stone was very recently found fallen down, and was carried to Mr. Brigham's barn, when it was found to read 1795, with the initials S. H. Thus bringing it within the time that the place has been used as a burying ground, and the initials supposed to stand for Sarah Hall. There was also found near the stone a coffin with two *sets* of bones; the bones of one, uncommonly large.

There are still to be seen the vestiges of a somewhat ancient burying ground near Deacon Stow's, on the bank of the river, and about one hundred rods west or south west of his house. This burying ground was commenced about 1798 or '99. It was then shaded with pitch pine and *retired*, the road running further from the river than it does now. The first person buried there was a Mrs. Mansfield, whose husband lived upon the opposite side of the river. There was also a Mrs. Hall, the wife of Silas Hall, and Deacon William Miller buried there.

The first burying upon Court Hill was about the year 1803. Mr. Benjamin Sawtell and Esq. Woodruff cleared away the shrub oaks and small pines to make room for the burial of Mr. John Crosby, who appears to have been nearly the first who was buried there. The spot was used as a burying place for the village until the several churches had built their respective edifices, and apportioned their own burying grounds.

For two or three years immediately preceding

the date in which we are writing, that part of Court Hill occupied by the old burial ground, has been in a process of being considerably cut down, much below the ordinary depth of graves ; consequently the remains of many of these former dead have been exhumed, and exposed to the careless gaze of the living. The remains of several, however, had been previously transferred to the other burying places of the village, when these places were first appropriated to this sacred purpose.

Judge Whitney had a family burying ground in the neighborhood of his own dwelling, where many of the Whitney family that have left the stage, now repose.

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## CHAPTER VIII.

PRIOR to the settlement either of Union or of the Chenango Valley, Col. Hooper, the patentee of the tract bearing his name, was sent by Bingham, Cox, and, it may be, others, to survey the shores of this part of the Susquehannah. He traversed it up and down, in an Indian canoe, managed by a faithful Indian whom he employed. He would lie down in the canoe, with an Indian blanket thrown over him, and take the courses and distances with a pocket compass, in this incumbent position. This precaution he took through fear of being shot by Indians on the shore. After this survey, a purchase was made of the Susquehannah valley from the Great Bend to Tioga Point. At what precise period the

patents were obtained is not now known. Thomas' Patent embraced the Bend, and extended six miles down the river; then Bingham's Patent, extending from Thomas' western line to some two or three miles beyond the village of Binghamton, two miles wide, lying equally on both sides of the river. Hooper and Wilson's Patent lay next, embracing a part of Union and Vestal, of the same width, and lying upon the river plain. This patent terminating westward where the line separates Broome from Tioga county, was sometime afterward divided by the proprietors by a line that ran through the centre of the old church in Union, when it stood upon its original foundation. The two patentees, at the time they made the division, gave to this congregation, which was then Dutch Reformed, each seventy acres of land. Next to the patent of Hooper and Wilson was that of Coxe's, which extended some miles beyond Owego. These gentlemen were of Philadelphia.

Union and Vestal began to be settled about the next year after the valley of the Chenango was. It may be, one or two families were in the same year. The earliest settlers—though it is somewhat uncertain who was the very first—were Major David Barney, who came down the river from Cooperstown in a canoe, with a large family of children, and settled in what is now called Vestal, a little below where his son Nathan now lives. In coming down, the canoe upset, to the extreme hazard of the lives of the children; but they were all saved. Major Barney is said to have been cousin to Com. Barney.



John Harvey, according to the testimony of his son, came into Union the same year that the Mr. Whitneys moved into the parts, and from the same county. He took up a temporary residence on the north side of the river, a little below Isaac Stow's present residence and inn. Daniel Harris was an early settler. He settled on the south side of the river, where Daniel Hyatt now lives.

But the more prominent settlers of Union were Gen. Oringh Stoddard, one of the commissioners, it will be recollected, appointed by the Boston Company to treat with the Indians, settled near where his son, the present Judge Stoddard, afterward lived for a number of years, and where the Traveller's Inn is now kept. His brother, James Stoddard, who came out at, or near, the same time, settled in Lisle. Near the same time came Nehemiah Spalding also, and Walter Sabins; the latter of whom was employed by the Boston Company as surveyor in running out their tract. These settled lower down, but on the same side of the river with Gen. Stoddard. Capt. William Brink, a Dutchman, and Henry Richards, a Dutchman also, settled higher up the river from Gen. Stoddard's, and farther towards Binghamton; Mr. Richards near where, it is believed, his son Jesse now lives; and Capt. Brink, upon the farm that was afterwards owned by Rufus Park, and still called the Park place.

Capt. Brink was from Wyoming; was there in the time of the *ice freshet*; lost all his cattle and other property in it. Capt Brink's name occurs in the History of Wyoming. He came from Northum-

berland with the Pennimites, under Plunket, to drive the yankees from their settlement. From Wyoming he first moved to the Delaware river, where he stayed a few years, and then moved to this country. He lost all his improvements upon the Park place, and was obliged to begin anew. His hardships seem to have given him a wonderful durability of constitution. He lived to be 82 years old. When 70 years of age, he is said, by his son, to have cradled *five* acres of grain in one day. His courage and hardihood are proverbial to this day. As corroborative of this, it may be related, that, upon a certain time, himself, Mittinus Harris, and Isaac Underwood, went out a hunting in a tracking snow, up the Chocunut. They came across a bear's track, and followed it to a pine tree, whose top was broken off, and which was hollow. It was evident that the bear had entered the tree, and at the top. And in order to gain access to or rouse the bear, it was necessary to cut down the tree. When it was near falling, they agreed upon Harris to take his stand, in order to shoot the bear as it came out. As the bear bounded from the tree, he fired, but did not kill. The dogs attacked it, and the bear was about running under a log or fallen tree, near where Capt. Brink was, when he laid hold of the bear's hind legs, and held on with *hands* and *teeth*, till Harris came up and knocked the bear, with the hatchet, in the head.

Moses Chambers, the father of Joseph Chambers, of Binghamton, settled on the Susquehannah, three miles below the village of Binghamton, in 1790; came from Wyoming; was a sufferer in the ice

freshet. The grandfather of Joseph Chambers was an officer in the French war, and moved from Wyoming to this country with his sons.

Jeremiah and Benjamin Brown settled below Gen. Stoddard's, on the north side of the river. Col. Coe settled on the south side, nearly opposite the Mr. Brown's, upon the same river road, which was then but an Indian path; and still higher up from Gen. Stoddard's, settled Ezekiel Crocker, something like three-quarters of a mile east of where his son, Oliver Crocker, senior, now lives.

Ezekiel Crocker was one of the sixty proprietors of the Boston Purchase. From Union he removed to the valley of the Chenango, near the *Big Island*, about two miles above Mr. Shaw's. Here but temporarily, and then moved down where his son David now lives. Mr. Crocker became one of the richest men in the county; but died utterly poor. He lost a large share of his property by venturing largely into a speculation in salt, during the last war.

Oliver Crocker came a little after his father, with his pack upon his back. He first worked land upon shares, as a tenant, under the elder Joshua Whitney, for two years; and then found himself able to purchase four hundred acres for himself. He was young at this time, only about eighteen years of age; and seems to have been inclined from the beginning to shift for himself. While employed in clearing his land, he lived, he says, for a length of time upon *roots* and *beeck leaves*. He boarded, or rather tarried by night, with one William Edminster and his little family; who were driven to near-

ly the same straits. They were relieved, in some degree, by a scanty supply of cucumbers, and still later by a deer or two. As young Crocker assisted in shooting the deer, so he shared in eating them. He says that while reduced to these extremities for food, he would become so *faint* at his work that he would scarcely be able to swing his axe.

Amos Patterson, afterward Judge of Broome county, was also one of the early settlers of Union. He settled at first about three miles below the village of Binghamton, and afterward purchased where his son, Chester Patterson, till within a short time, has lived. He took an active part in the formation of the Boston Company. He was one of those who came out first to view the country, and who made the proposition to the Indians.

Joshua Mersereau, who was one of the earliest Judges of old Tioga county, settled in Union in the year the great scarcity was, 1789. He settled first, it is believed, upon the south side of the river; but in a year or two removed to the north side of the river, upon the location where he lived for many years after. The house is yet standing, large and venerable, on the south side of the road, and some considerable distance from it towards the river; and his farm or tract reached so far west as to extend to near the site of the present village of Union. He was an early agent for the Hooper and Wilson's Patent, and resided, previous to his coming to Union, at Unadilla for a year or two. John Mersereau, his brother, came in 1792, and settled first on the Vestal side of the river, but afterward removed over

and settled upon the north side, where his son Peter now resides, the purchase embracing the site of Union village.

These two brothers were from New Jersey. John Mersereau was from New Brunswick ; and Judge Mersereau moved, it is believed, from Woodbridge. They, however, before the revolutionary war, lived on Staten Island, and *unitedly* kept a large and important tavern, at what is still called the Blazing Star. These two men were the first who commenced a line of stages from New-York to Philadelphia, uniting their line with the boats that plied between their own dock and New-York. John Mersereau introduced the *first* post coach into the United States from England ; was the first to put on *four* horses to a mail stage, and was obliged to send to England for a driver ; only *two* horses before the same vehicle having been driven here before. Often four, and sometimes *six*, horses were put before the coaches of the gentry in our own country as well as in England, but they always had postillions upon them.

When the war commenced, their stages stopped running ; and when New-York and Staten Island fell into the hands of the British, they lost their property on the Island, which was burnt ; and Judge Mersereau narrowly escaped falling into the enemy's hand, a company having been despatched to take him at his own house ; his zeal in the American cause having been early known to them. John Mersereau turned his horses, which had been employed in the stage line, into the American service, and made an offer of himself to Washington, who



often employed him on difficult expeditions, and as a spy. Esquire John La Grange's father was employed often in the same capacity.

Judge Mersereau was appointed Commissary throughout the war. He was much about the person of General Washington. The Judge, with his brother, were the principal instruments in preventing the British army from crossing the Delaware river, in their pursuit of Washington. Washington had crossed the Delaware about the first of December, either to escape from the enemy, who had followed him through New Jersey, or to go into winter quarters. After crossing the river, he took every precaution to move all the boats across the river, and to burn all the materials on the Jersey side, not carried over, which might be laid hold of by the enemy to construct rafts. Gen. Washington was asked by Judge Mersereau, whether he was sure he had removed out of the way all that could be employed to transport the enemy across. Washington replied he thought he had. Judge Mersereau begged the privilege of re-crossing, and making search. He and his brother went back and searched the opposite shore, and found below the surface of the water two Durham boats which had been *timely sunk* by a royalist, who lived near. They raised them up, bailed out the water, and floated them over to the Pennsylvania side. When the British army came up to the Delaware shore, they found no possible means of crossing, and were obliged to return back, and pursue, at this time, our army no further.

After the surrender of Burgoyne, Judge Merse-

reau had charge of all the prisoners. It devolved upon him to provide for them. They were conducted to Boston and from thence sent back to England. A British officer, one of the prisoners, was unwell, and asked of Mr. Mersereau a furlough to go out into the country, into some private family and recruit his health. The Judge sent him to his *own family*, which was then residing in Springfield, Massachusetts. His family consisted of a young wife, and three little children. While the officer was in Mr. Mersereau's family, his *health* improved wonderfully; he was able, in less than a week, to leave, and take also with him the commissary's wife, who was never seen by him afterward. This *new pair* took with them also a span of fine black horses and chaise, with a large amount of silver plate. The youngest, which was a babe at the breast, the mother left with a neighboring woman, with money and clothes. This babe is now the widow Van Name, the mother of the Mr. Van Names on the Chenango, four miles above the village of Binghamton. Her husband's name was William Van Name, who settled where his sons now live, about forty-two years ago. The other two children are Lawrence and Cornelius Mersereau, both of Union.

Several of the Indians, whose particular location was at the Castle farm, had temporary huts or wigwams in Union, near the river, and on both sides. These they occupied more or less for several years after the country was settled.

Where, and in what manner, they obtained their

salt was always a mystery to the whites. They would strike a course over the mountain about opposite Judge Mersereau's, on the south side of the river, and after an absence of about twelve hours, would return with a pail or kettle of salt; and that, too, immediately upon their return, would be warm. Old Mr. Richards used to say, that the Indians would cross the river below Willow Point, rise the mountain and bring back salt. Sometimes it would be warm. He inferred that there must be a salt spring near, but it never could be found. John D. Merse-reau relates, that when a lad, his father and himself have endeavored to follow the Indians when they were known to have set out for salt; but they soon would appear to be apprehensive that they were watched, and would either remain where they were, or turn from their course. Never more than *two* would set out upon the expedition. They used the utmost precaution to prevent the whites from ever discovering the secret spot. They had other places to which they resorted for salt, one or more in the neighborhood of Oquago. Why these sources of salt have never been found by the whites is a mystery.

John La Grange, Esq. of Vestal, came later, although in an early day. He moved from Elizabethtown, N. J., when quite a young man, with a young wife, who was also of Elizabethtown, and of the Halsey family of that place. She was a woman of more than ordinary energy, at the same time amiable and dignified in her manners, and extensively useful in her neighborhood. This much is thought

to be no more than a just tribute to her virtues. Upon coming here he purchased his lands of his uncle, Judge Mersereau, opposite to whom he settled. When he came, he was unacquainted with a wooden country, and even with farming itself. So that his partial success for a length of time, and his frequent irritations, from want of more experience, as well as the unpropitious aspect of a newly settled country, induced him many times to wish that he had stayed where the elements around him were less at variance with his knowledge and habits. His wife, however, would bear up his courage, or pleasantly ridicule his little vexations.

Esquire La Grange is of the fourth generation, in descent, from Mr. John La Grange, who was from France, and a patentee of a large tract of land, twelve miles square, embracing, it is said, a part of the site upon which Albany now stands. This patent was purchased of the Dutch proprietor, John Hendrick Van Ball, in 1672. The patent deed, given to Van Ball by Francis Lovelace—otherwise Lord Lovelace, then governor of the colony of New York—is now in the possession of Esq. La Grange, as a relic of antiquity. The land of the patent, however, went out of the hands of the La Grange family after the death of the old patentee, by an artful manœuvre and slight of hand in *law*, attributable, it is said, to the Van Rensselaer family. Not many years since, Esq. La Grange, in virtue of claims derived from his ancestor's patent, received, as one of the heirs, some two or three thousand dollars.

Mr. La Grange has in his possession, as the

rightful heir, being the oldest son of his father, who was also the oldest son of *his* father, and of the same christian name, a large silver tankard, embossed, after the ancient manner, with the family *coat of arms*. This tankard belonged to his remote ancestor John La Grange the patentee, and brought by him from France. He had also his ancestor's golden signet, with his initials and family coat of arms. He has also—for it is our purpose to speak of all such specimens of antiquity as may come to our knowledge—a powder-horn curiously and ingeniously figured, which was found by an officer in Sullivan's expedition, in an Indian wigwam.

As there is a family chronicle which traces back the ancestry of the Mersereau family to their original country, France, it may be proper to insert it.

The family is descended from a John Mersereau, a protestant, who was born in France, and who lived and died there. He is represented as being a strong athletic man, and very active. When young he studied law, and went to a fencing and dancing school; and then went to a saddler's trade. This business he followed extensively. Was captain of a company; and often amused the officers and men by exercising the *pique*. He never went from home without his sword. One evening he overtook three friars. As he passed them, he said, "good night, gentlemen;" upon which they remarked, "he is a Hugonot, or he would have called us fathers." To which he replied, "that he knew but one father, who was in heaven." They drew their sabres from under their cloaks, and were about to attack him.



He desired they would let him pass and go his way. But they rushed upon him in such a manner that he was forced to defend himself. He killed one and wounded another ; the third made his escape. For this deed, however, he was never apprehended. He was in great credit ; kept the best of company, and died comparatively young. He left three sons : Joshua, Paul and Daniel ; and two daughters : Mary and Martha. The children all left France and went to England in the reign of James II., 1685. Popery prevailing here—for James was a Catholic—they sailed for Philadelphia. In consequence of distress of weather, the ship in which they sailed was obliged to put into the harbor of New-York. Paul remained in England. Daniel settled on Staten Island. Mary married John Latourette, and Martha married a Mr. Shadine. Their mother died in this country, and was buried in the French Church on Staten Island.

Mary, who married Mr. Latourette, was in the great massacre of Schenectady, in 1690. She was scalped and left for dead ; all her children butchered by the Indians ; her husband probably dead before, or killed in this massacre. The nakedness of her skull was concealed and defended by a cap made for the express purpose. She spent the rest of her days with her brother Joshua, who, it is believed, lived on Staten Island also, and who was the maternal great-grandfather of Esq. La Grange, and the grandfather of Judge Mersereau ; great-grandfather also of Peter Latourette, who early settled in Vestal, where his son Henry, and David Ross now own and live.

Daniel Seymour, and Samuel his brother, who have already been spoken of as among the very first settlers, were next above Esq. La Grange in their location. Next below was Thomas Eldridge; and then in order—still continuing down the river—was James Williams, Thomas Park, Matthias Dubois, and the younger John Mersereau. Ruggles Winchell and Daniel Price settled back from the main road, about four miles.

Peter Mersereau, now living about one half mile beyond the village of Union, who has been spoken of as the son of the elder John Mersereau, came over from the south side of the river with his father, and settled near him. Peter, when a lad of about twelve years old, while his father lived in New Jersey, was postillion for lady Washington from Trenton to Elizabethtown, on her way from Virginia to New-York, to join her husband. This was after the war, when Washington was about to be inaugurated President. At Elizabethtown a barge received her, rowed by thirty pilots.

The village of Union was laid out into streets, and lots of three-quarters of an acre in size, in 1836.

The earliest physician of Union was a Dr. Ross, who settled a little below the present site of the village.

Beyond the village of Union, on the same side of the river, and between the village and Owego, the first settlers were in order, beginning from Lewis Keeler's present dwelling, Luke Bates; next, William Roe, Daniel Reed, David Gaskill, Asa Camp, the father of the late landlord of Camp's well-

known Inn. Asa Camp is still living, where, it is believed, he first settled; now very aged. He served in the revolutionary war, in the capacity of sergeant, for four years; commanded at Fort Frederick, on the Mohawk; and with fifteen men in the fort effectually repelled two hundred Indians and to-ries. When a flag was sent in for them to surrender, sergeant Camp sent word back, "that yankees lived there; and if they got the fort they must get it by the hardest." He was in the battle at White Plains; was in one battle on the sea, near the banks of Newfoundland, and was also at Valley Forge.

Next to Esquire Camp, came Isaac Harris' settlement, then a Mr. Dodge, and last, and farthest towards Owego, was Paul Yates. On the south side of the river, and nearly opposite Esquire Camp's, is Mr. John Jewell, still living. His settlement at this place was not so early as the rest that have been mentioned; but he is now venerable in age, and therefore should be mentioned; was a Judge, previously to his coming here, in Dutchess county; served in a part of the revolutionary war; was particularly in the battle at White Plains. Henry Billings, still further up the river, and on the same side with Mr. Jewell, came in about thirty-five years ago. He gives an account of a great freshet in the Susquehannah, about thirty-one years ago; and states also that fifty strings of beads, with broaches and other trinkets, were found after the freshet had subsided, having been washed from their beds of concealment, near where Daniel Harris then lived, and where Daniel Hyatt now lives.

## CHAPTER IX.

THE village of Owego is named after a creek of the same name, emptying into the Susquehannah, about a half mile beyond it. The name is of Indian origin, and signifies *swift* or *swift river*.

Previous to the purchase of the Boston Company, James McMaster and Amos Draper, in about the year 1783 or '4, purchased of the Indians what they called a half township, comprising 11,500 acres, and embracing the site upon which Owego stands. Two of its boundaries were, on the west by the Owego creek, and on the south by the Susquehannah river. This purchase having been conducted legally, and being prior to their own, the Boston Company ceded to them the half township, though embraced within the limits of their own purchase; which, it will be remembered, extended on the west to the Owego creek.

In 1785, McMaster and William Taylor, still living in Owego, and then a bound boy to McMaster, came and cleared, in one season, ten or fifteen acres of land; and through the summer planted and raised a crop of corn from the same. This was the first *transition* of the ground, where Owego now stands, from a wilderness state.

In 1794 or '5, McMaster and Hudson, a surveyor, laid out the village into streets and lots, and thus laid the foundation for what Owego is, or shall be hereafter. Ten years passed, or a little more, from

the first felling of the trees, until the first steps were taken to constitute it a village. The pleasantness of the situation, being upon the banks of the Susquehanah, with nearly a level plain for its location, and the advantages of water power from the Owego creek, together with the prospect of a speedy settlement of the country around, determined these men, undoubtedly, in fixing upon this spot.

Col. D. Pixley, another of the commissioners sent out by the Boston company, it will be remembered, to treat with the Indians, settled, in a very early day, about one mile west of Owego, on a beautiful and level area of about 3000 acres. This purchase, for some reason, not now known, was called "Campbell's Location." Col. Pixley was from Stockbridge, Massachusetts, and when he moved into the parts, he brought with him a wife and three children; David, Amos and Mary. The daughter is the wife of James Pumpelly, of Owego. David Pixley, jun. was a surveyor, and the father of Charles B. Pixley, a resident of Binghamton. Col. Pixley acquainted himself with the Indian language, and became thereby the more popular with them. Mrs. Pixley was eminently pious, and made her house a *home* for strangers, and especially for the missionaries and ministers of that early day.

The sources of wealth, as the village grew up, were salt from Salina, brought to the place and carried down the river in arks for Pennsylvania and Maryland markets. Wheat from the north, which was also transported down the river; lumber, also, and plaster.



Some little distance beyond Owego creek, there settled in early day, one Jeremy White. Near what is now known as Swartwood's tavern, but formerly and better known as Broadhead's tavern, there settled one Swartz. Still continuing down the river, and on the same side, near the mouth of Pipe creek, the first settlement was made by Cornelius Brooks and Prince Alden. One mile and a half beyond, Nathaniel Goodspeed settled. In the same neighborhood also, settled Francis Gragg. Lodawick Light, still beyond, and about eight miles below Owego. Jesse Miller, the father of Jesse and Amos Miller, settled one mile this side of Smithborough—a small village ten miles west of Owego—on the same farm upon which their sons now live. Samuel Ransom and Enos Canfield, still nearer this village. Abiel Cady and Jonas Williams settled, it is believed, on the other side; that is, the east side of the river.

Amos Draper, the same that purchased the half township of the Indians, settled himself where Smithborough now stands. The father of Amos Draper was a tory in the revolutionary war. At this time, his family resided on the south bank of the Susquehannah, in what was afterwards called Union, not far from opposite Judge Mersereau's. The sons, however, always differed in this respect from the father. This village, only a few years ago, was laid out into a village form by Isaac Boardman, who was sole proprietor of the ground. Boardman bought of Robert Johnson.

Beyond the village of Smithborough the earliest

settlers were Jonas Pyers, Ebenezer Taylor, Stephen Mills. Mr. Mills is still living, and rising eighty years of age ; living, too, on the place he first occupied. Ebenezer Ellis lived four miles this side of Tioga Point. John Shepherd, three miles this side, and owned the mills on Cayuta creek. The grist mill was built by one Briant, and sold to Shepherd. Enoch Warner lived just beyond the second Narrows, on the Chemung river, being the next neighbor, in this early day, to Mr. Mills, on the road—or rather path at this time—to Elmira. John Squires settled opposite to Mr. Warner, on the western side of the same river.

Between Owego and Tioga Point there were a number of Indians lived on the river plain for a length of time after its settlement by the whites. They demanded a yearly rent of the settlers for their land, until a treaty was held with them at Tioga, three or four years after the first settlement. An Indian, called Captain John, was their chief, or passed as such. They were always pleased to have white people eat with them ; and would appear offended, if, when calling at their wigwams when they were eating, they refused to eat with them. In seeking their rent, which they expected to be paid in grain, or when they wished to borrow, or buy, or beg, they never would ask for wheat, but always for *corn*. It is said, that some of the squaws could make an excellent kind of cake, out of fine Indian-meal, dried berries and maple sugar. When they wished to beg something to eat, instead of expressing it in words, they would place their hand first on their

*stomach* and then to their *mouth*. This mute language must have been a powerful appeal to the hospitality and sympathies of their more fortunate brethren. When they had bad luck, it is said, they would eat some kind of root which made them very sick and vomit, that they might, as they said, have better luck in future.

A few years after the country was settled, there prevailed an extensive and serious famine. It was felt more particularly in the region between Owego and Elmira, embracing Tioga. It was experienced even down to Wyoming. For six weeks or more the inhabitants were entirely without *bread* or its kind. This season of famishing occurred immediately before the time of harvesting. So far as the cause of this destitution was accounted for, it was supposed to result from a greater number, than usual, of new settlers coming in, and also a great scarcity prevailing in Wyoming that season. This being a much older settled country, a scarcity here would materially affect the newer parts.

During the prevalency of this want of bread, the people were languid in their movements, irresolute and feeble in what they undertook, emaciated and gaunt in their appearance.

The inhabitants, as a substitute for more substantial food, gathered, or rather, it is believed, *dug* what were called wild beans ; which, it seems, were found in considerable quantities. These they boiled and ate, with considerable relish. They would also gather the most nutritious roots and eat. As soon as their rye was in the milk, it was seized upon, and

by drying it over a moderate fire, until the grain acquired some consistency, they were enabled to pound it into a sort of meal, out of which they made *mush*. This was a very great relief, although the process was tedious, and attended with much waste of the grain. In the early part of the scarcity, while there was a possibility of finding grain or flour of any kind abroad, instances were not unfrequent, of families tearing up their feather beds, and sending away the feathers in exchange for bread. And instances also of individuals riding a whole day and not obtaining a *half* of a loaf. During the time of this great want, however, none died of hunger. There were two young men that died in consequence of eating to *excess*, when their hunger came to be relieved by the green rye.

Tioga Point was settled, as near as can be ascertained, in the year 1780, by John Shepherd, Dr. Stephen Hopkins, Col. Satterlee, Elisha Matthewson, David Paine, and Samuel Paine. They all purchased their land of Col. Jenkins, who was a patentee of a tract of land embracing this place.

The place was run out into streets and lots in 1786.

Mrs. Matthewson, the wife of Elisha Matthewson, an aged lady, and widow, now living in the village of Tioga, was taken a prisoner at Wyoming, at the time that the fort, in which the inhabitants had taken refuge, was surrendered to the British and Indians, in 1778. The British and Indians, it will be remembered, were commanded jointly by Col. Butler, a British officer, and the celebrated Brant. The American militia, by Col. Zebulon Butler and Col.

Nathan Denison. The disasters of the battle which preceded, and of the surrender of the fort, are as feelingly remembered as any part of the American history.

The articles and capitulation, which were drawn up and signed on the 4th of July—just two years from the signing of a *very different* instrument—were entirely disregarded. The village of Wilksbarre, consisting then of twenty-three houses, was burnt. Men and their wives were separated, and carried into captivity; their property was plundered, and the settlement laid waste. The remainder of the inhabitants were driven from the valley, and compelled to proceed on foot sixty or eighty miles through swamp and thick forest to the Delaware, without food, and almost without clothing. A number *perished* in the journey, principally women and children; others wandered from the path in search of food, and were lost; and those who survived, called the wilderness through which they passed, “*the shades of death* ;” an appellation which it has ever since retained.

Mrs. Matthewson was at this time about thirteen or fourteen years old. She had a mother and little brothers and sisters, all younger than herself, delivered up with the other prisoners of the fort. Her father, it is believed, fell in the battle that took place. She says the Indians, when they came into the fort, painted the faces of all that were in the fort. She was so young that she did not understand the object of it, but supposes it was done to distinguish them, if found without the fort. She says that the Indi-



ans plundered the fort of every thing they could lay their hands upon ; even much of the clothing worn at the time by the inmates. After a day or two, they were discharged from the fort, and sent out forlorn and destitute, with scarcely clothing to their backs, with no provision, *all* having been seized upon, as well as their cattle and horses. This company, thus destitute, consisted almost entirely of aged or infirm men, of women and their children. The able bodied men having been cut off in the battle, to the number of three hundred. Turned out of home, in the midst of a wild wilderness, they look around for succor and can think of none nearer than their friends and relatives in New England, whence they emigrated. They turn their faces towards the Delaware river and set out to march through the dismal forest that lay between ; carrying their little ones, and progressing as the younger part, or more infirm, could bear it.

Mrs. Matthewson says, that when night came, they all were obliged to lie down under the *open* canopy of heaven, without any covering, save that of angel's wings. She says they would look out a place to lie, in or near some little bushes, such as alder or whortleberry, that they might have the partial covering their leaves afforded. They were sustained, she says, on their way, almost entirely by whortleberries, a gracious provision which the season afforded, without which they must have starved.

After several days they reached the Delaware at Strousburgh, where they met with two companies of the continental troops, who had been sent to the

succor and relief of the people of Wyoming, but too late. Here they remained a week or more, and received rations from the military stores of the two companies. After this she, her mother, and the other children, started for the mother's native New England. A horse was procured, by some means, upon which the mother rode and carried one or two of the younger children. The mother died soon after reaching her destined place, and the youngest child died on the way.

To follow now the settlement up the Chemung river, Ebenezer Ellis settled four miles above the Point, towards Elmira. Enoch Warner settled just above the second Narrows; John Squires opposite, on the other side of the river. Abijah Batterson, on the same side of the river, nearly as high up as Wellsburgh. This little village is on the south west side of the river, six miles south east of Elmira. Samuel Bidleman settled a few miles below Wellsburgh, on the Elmira side of the river, where John Bidleman now lives. Judge Henry Wells, of Wellsburgh, is the son of Abner Wells, from Orange county, the first settler of the place, and after whom it is called. Between Wellsburgh and Elmira, there settled on both sides of the river, Abraham Kelsey, James Mitchell, a Mr. Gardner, Samuel Middaugh, Abraham Miller, first Judge and father of the present Abraham Miller, Lebeus Tubbs, from Wyoming, Parson Culvier—as he was popularly called—a Congregational minister, Rufus Baldwin, Wm. Jenkins, Esq., from Wyoming also, Nathaniel Seely, John and Timothy Smith, Solomon Bavier, Judge Caleb

Baker, near Elmira, Lebeus Hammond, Esq., a little down the river. Mr. Hammond was the only person that made his escape of fourteen that were set down in a circle to be tomahawked by the Indians, after the great defeat at Wyoming. On the evening after the battle, the Indians, after their custom, set them down in a circle, a great number standing guard around; they then commenced the *deadly* work, with the man sitting next to Esq. Hammond. But no sooner was this first one knocked in the head, and fell back, than *he* sprung and passed the ring, a volley of hatchets being thrown at him. He, however, cleared them. It is stated in a manner to be depended upon for truth, that Queen Easter, a celebrated squaw, who has already been spoken of, was the person appointed to execute the work of death upon these fourteen men; which she achieved with as much adroitness and *coolness* of *blood* as any of their warriors would have done. Her place of residence was at Tioga Point. The soldiers of Sullivan's army having heard the part she took in that massacre, contrived, as they passed through the place, so to dispose of her as to leave no trace of her existence behind. At least, this is the supposition, as nothing was found of her afterward.

Mr. Hammond was captured the second time. Having business about twelve miles from home, he set out under circumstances of some apprehension, at least according to the feelings of his wife, who had gloomy forebodings as to his safety. The particulars of his capture have been received from a gentleman residing in the immediate neighborhood of Esq.

Hammond, and well acquainted with him in his lifetime :

Sometime in March, of 1781, Mr. Lebeus Hammond, a citizen of Luzerne county, left his residence on the Susquehannah river, a few miles above where the village of Wilksbarre now stands, in search of a horse which had strayed from him. Hammond directed his course up the river for the distance of about ten miles, to a place he had formerly lived, where he expected to find his horse. According to his expectation he found his horse, and after making a bridle of hickory withes, he proceeded homewards. When within about five miles of his residence, he came to a clearing, where he found a Mr. Bennett and his son *logging*, with two yoke of oxen. He stopped and conversed with them until the declining sun warned him that it was time to be on his way. He left them, but had gone little more than a mile, when he discovered several moccasin tracks in the road ; he became alarmed, fearing that there was a party of Indians at hand. He stopped and listened, but could hear nothing ; he then proceeded at a brisk trot, expecting every moment to have his horse shot from beneath him, and had gone but a few hundred yards from where he had first seen the tracks, when two Indians sprung from behind a large tree, seized his horse by the bridle, and dragged him off the back of the affrighted animal. After a short consultation in the Indian tongue, which Hammond did not understand, they led him some distance into the woods, and fastened him to a tree with his hands tied behind his back.

In this situation they left him, and were absent nearly an hour when they returned, dragging with them Bennett and his son, having been joined in the mean time by four more Indians. The Indians appeared rejoiced at having taken Bennett, who, it appeared had been their prisoner once before, and had escaped. They immediately commenced their march up the Susquehannah river, making Bennett carry all the baggage they were in possession of; and travelled thirteen miles that evening, to where they encamped in an old building, situated near the river bank. The Indians were destitute of provisions, and the prisoners, though very hungry and faint, travelling with the burdens which they had heaped upon them, were compelled to lay down without receiving a morsel to eat. When they were preparing to lie down, the old Indian, who appeared to be their leader, went to the woods and cut three long poles, and then ordered the prisoners to lie down on a blanket which had been spread on the floor of the cabin; he then laid the poles over the prisoners, when three of the Indians laid down on each end of them, in order to prevent the escape of their prisoners. In this distressing situation they passed the night. They remained at this place until about ten o'clock in the day, when a party of Indians came in canoes from the opposite side of the river, and took them over. When they reached the shore, one of the party which met them gave each of the prisoners a large piece of jerked venison, which they devoured eagerly, having eat nothing for nearly two days and a night. They left



the large party here, and proceeded up the river shore all that day, and at night they encamped on the river bank; and the prisoners were secured in the same manner they had been the preceding night, and without giving them any thing to eat.

The next morning they commenced their march, still pursuing the course of the river; about ten o'clock the sun shone quite warm, and melted the snow which still remained on the mountains, and raised the small streams which they had to cross to a great height, but they braved all difficulties and persevered on, and late in the afternoon they arrived at a creek, which the Indians called *Mashoppin*, where the Indians killed a deer, which they skinned and carried the meat with them. The creek was swollen very much by the water which had run off the hills during the day, and they were compelled to go up its bank for several miles, before they could get across it. After they had reached the other shore, they proceeded down the same, until within half a mile of its junction with the *Susquehannah*, where they encamped for the night. After a fire had been kindled, they seated themselves around it, and were roasting the venison which they had got this day, when the leader of the Indians, who spoke tolerably good English, commenced a conversation with Hammond, and told him that he had expected to meet a large party of Indians at that place, but as they were not there, he supposed they had encamped higher up the river. He then asked Hammond various questions concerning the war, such as, did he think there would

be peace? and stated that he had understood that the white men wished to make peace with the red men; and whether he had ever known Lieut. Boyd? Hammond told him that he was intimately acquainted with him. The Indian then went and got a *sword* that lay a little way from where they sat, and drew the blade out of the scabbard, and with a smile of triumph said, "there Boyd's sword!" Hammond took the sword out of the hand of the Indian, and discovered the initials of Boyd's name stamped on the blade near the hilt. Hammond then gave the sword to the Indian, who appeared careful to return it to the place from which he had taken it, and returning again to Hammond, said, "Boyd a brave man, he as good a soldier as ever fought against the red men;" and this Hammond supposed the savage well knew, for he had previously told him that he commanded the party of Indians that had massacred Boyd and his band of heroes, which consisted of twenty-four men, but one of whom escaped the hands of these merciless savages. Boyd, he stated, had been sent out on a scouting party by General Sullivan, when he and his party met them, and the bloody conflict ensued. We took Boyd prisoner, continued the Indian, and put him to death, by cutting off his fingers and toes, and plucking out his eyes; but still brave Boyd neither asked for mercy, or uttered a complaint. He related to Hammond the manner in which *Yost*, a friendly Indian, who acted as a guide for Boyd, had been put to death, which was much more barbarous and cruel than that inflicted on Boyd.

Hammond sat in silence during all the time that the savage was relating the story of the massacre, knowing that it would be death to him to expostulate or express his detestation of the hellish deed, but his bosom burned with rage, and he uttered a silent prayer to Him who rules the destiny of all, that means of revenging the murder of his countrymen might be placed within his reach.

Here the Indian ceased talking to Hammond, and ordering the prisoners to lie down, they were fastened in the same manner they had been the two preceding nights. About midnight the wind shifted to the north, and it became so intensely cold, that Hammond and his companions in captivity nearly perished. At day-break the Indians loosened their prisoners and ordered them to kindle a large fire, and one of the Indians was set as a guard, whilst the other five laid down again and fell asleep. The Indian who had been set as a guard got the head of the deer which they had killed the preceding day, and with a spear held it into the fire to roast, and threw a blanket over his head and shoulders to shelter him from the north wind. After they had kindled a good fire and warmed themselves, Hammond asked leave for him and his companions to go to the creek, which was but a short distance off, to wash, which the old Indian willingly granted. When they were done washing themselves, Hammond says to Bennett, "My friend, now is the auspicious moment for us to effect our liberation from these barbarians, such a favorable opportunity may never again offer, and you have already seen enough to convince you

that you will be put to death." Bennett unhesitatingly agreed to make the attempt, it could only be death, and *that* he expected if he remained with them, and he might as well perish in an attempt to regain his liberty. The great matter then, was to deceive the old Indian so as to prevent him from discovering their intention, and giving the alarm to his savage comrades. To effect this, Hammond was to place himself at the opposite side of the fire from the old Indian, and engage him in an earnest conversation, whilst Bennett and his son were to come up behind him and seize the guns and spears; the blanket which the Indian had thrown over his head, would prevent him from discovering them. The arrangements were now completed. Bennett stood ready with a spear to terminate the existence of the old Indian, who had been set to watch them. Hammond stood prepared to leap over the fire the instant the blow was given, and lay hold of the tomahawks which lay near the heads of the savages, and with them to aid in despatching the other five; whilst the boy stood ready to seize the guns, and render all the assistance in the conflict he could.

The signal was given, and Bennett drove the spear completely through the body of the old Indian, who sprang entirely over the fire and drew the spear out of Bennett's hand, uttering a most terrific yell. Hammond sprang over the fire, seized the tomahawks, and prepared for the work of death. The Indian who had the command of the party that massacred Boyd and his men, was first on his feet and gave the savage yell, "chee whoo! chee whoo!"

when Hammond buried a tomahawk in his brains, and he fell headlong into the fire ; the next blow he made, he struck one of them on the side of the head immediately below the ear, who also fell into the fire ; and at a third blow he buried his tomahawk between the shoulders of a savage, who, on receiving the stroke, made such a sudden leap, that he forced the tomahawk from Hammond, and ran some distance with it sticking in his shoulders. Bennett, having lost his spear at the commencement of the affray, had seized a gun and despatched one of the Indians by beating out his brains with the butt of it. Not one of the Indians would have escaped, had it not been that three of the guns were empty ; three of them having fired at a deer the day before, and had not re-loaded their guns. This rendered the boy almost useless in the struggle ; he having made three attempts to shoot, but had unfortunately got hold of an empty gun. One of the Indians escaped unhurt, and the one wounded between the shoulders crept away and hid himself. They then gathered up the blankets, guns and *sword*, and threw every thing else into the fire ; and in their hurry they neglected to save any of the venison to take with them.

They immediately commenced their retreat, directing their course up the Mashoppin, and at the distance of three miles from the place from which they had started, they waded the creek, taking the boy between them to prevent him from being swept off by the stream, which had risen considerably during the night, and was very difficult and dan-



gerous to cross. The morning was extremely cold, and they had proceeded but a short distance until their clothes were frozen stiff, which rendered it very laborious and uncomfortable for them to travel. On their way home they kept behind the mountains and a considerable distance from the river, fearing that they would be pursued by the large party of savages, which one of the Indians had informed Hammond were in the neighborhood. The weather continuing cold, the snow, which was still of a considerable depth behind the mountains, was frozen hard enough to permit them to walk on the crust without falling through. This, whilst it enabled them to travel much faster, rendered it almost impossible to track them. On the evening of the sixth day after they had been taken by the savages, they arrived at home, to the great joy of their families and neighbors, having travelled three days without a morsel to eat.

Lieutenant Boyd's sword, which Hammond had taken from the old Indian, was some years afterwards presented by him to Col. John Boyd, a brother of the deceased.

Several years after the bloody transaction which had taken place on the bank of the Mashoppin, at an Indian treaty held at Newtown—the same that we speak of as taking place in 1790—Hammond saw the old Indian he had wounded in the shoulders with a tomahawk, who walked with his head bowed down in consequence of the wound. Hammond, who was not altogether convinced that he was the same Indian, and not wishing to make himself known to the

savage—if he was the same—requested a man named Jennings, to ask the old Indian the cause of his neck being so crooked. Jennings watched him, and an opportunity presenting itself, he asked the old savage the question, who promptly replied, “a d—d yankee tomahawked me at Wyoming!” This answer fully satisfied Hammond that he was the same Indian he had wounded at the contest on the bank of the Mashoppin.

Mrs. Hammond herself was taken prisoner, and was among those who travelled through the wilderness called by them “the shades of death,” to the Delaware river.

Below Wellsburgh, and on the same side of the river, within the distance of six or eight miles of the village, there settled a Mr. McKeen, the father of Mr. McKeen, the United States Senator, Ebenezer Green, Abijah Batterson, Samuel Westbrook, Elias Middaugh, Green Bently, near Wellsburgh, after whom Bentley creek was named, Abraham Bennet, Asa Burnham, Abiel Fry, Thomas Kenney, Elder John Goff, who was the first minister of that region, was of the Baptist order, and a useful man in his day. He came from Wyoming, and settled on the Chemung Flats in 1786. The Baldwin family settled about the same time opposite Wellsburgh. John Hillman came about the same time, and settled a little lower down.

The person who first broke the ground for civilized settlement, in the region which was destined to embrace the village of Elmira, with its suburb neighborhood, was Col. John Handy. He was of New

England origin, and emigrated thither from Tioga Point in the year 1788. A few years previous to this, he had moved from Wyoming. The precise spot of his settlement was, it is believed, where the venerable Col. now lives ; which is something more than two miles above the village, on the banks of the Chemung. He lives still in his primitive style, in a double log house, retaining the manners and bearing of the generation that has just gone by, of which he is a happy representative. He is highly esteemed in the village and its vicinity, as a surviving hero of the revolution, as the first pioneer in the settlement of the country, and as the friend, the paternal friend, of the generation that has grown up around him.

The second person who made a permanent settlement within the range of Elmira village, was John Miller, afterward first Judge of Tioga county, who also settled immediately upon the banks of the Chemung, upon a farm now occupied by Captain Partridge. Thomas Handy, a relative of the Colonel, was the third. In the same year, and in the following, (1789) there came several families and settled on the south side of the river, now called Southport, and connected to Elmira by a bridge.

The same year, it appears, in which Col. Handy settled on the Chemung, that section of country was surveyed by Gen. James Clinton, Gen. John Hathorn, and John Cantine, Esq. as commissioners on the part of the State, and the land estimated and sold at eighteen pence per acre. But a little previous to this, Judge Gore and Gen. Spalding, from Tioga

Point, rented the lands lying between the Pennsylvania line on the south, the pre-emption line on the west, the two lakes on the north, and the Chemung Narrows on the east, for ninety-nine years. Whether this transaction was recognized by the commissioners is not known.

In the year 1790, Elmira was signalized with the presence of between eleven and twelve hundred Indians, who had met from various and distant parts of their wilderness country, for the purpose of holding a treaty with the United States. The distinguished Timothy Pickering was the principal negotiator on the part of the government, and Guy Maxwell acted as his secretary. On the part of the Indians there were their most distinguished chiefs, such as Red Jacket, Corn Planter, Big Tree, and others, to watch over, elucidate, and defend the waning interests of the several tribes.

In 1792, Nathaniel Seely built the first frame house in the village of Newtown, or Elmira. Moses De Witt, the year previous, (1791) laid out the village of Elmira; and in honor of whom the village was first called De Wittsburgh. For some reason it soon changed its name to that of Newtown; this name it changed to that of Elmira.

In 1797, the village was honored with the visit of no less a personage than Louis Philippe, the present King of France, with two French noblemen accompanying him: the Duke de Nemours and the Duke de Berri. They came on foot from Canandaigua, with letters of introduction from Thomas Morris, to Henry Tower, Esq., who then lived in the village

of Elmira. Mr. Tower, after his distinguished guests had tarried some number of days under his hospitable roof, recruiting their weary limbs, and enjoying the social parlance of their hosts, took them in a boat he fitted up for the purpose, down to Harrisburgh.

Southport, which is a beautiful and extended plain, on the south side of the Chemung, and the central part immediately opposite Elmira, was settled, as has been just stated, the first and second years after the settlement of the north side, by Judge Caleb Baker, who still lives upon the *sod* that received its first cultivation from himself. John and Timothy Smith, Solomon Bavier, Lebius Hammond, Esq., William Jenkins, Esq., still living, Rufus Baldwin, still farther down the river, Parson Culvier, a Congregational minister, Lebius Tubbs, the father of Mrs. Hammond, Judge Abraham Miller, and Samuel Middaugh; whose names have been mentioned before.

This plain, it should be stated, had, previously to its settlement by the whites, been cleared—so far as they clear land—and cultivated by the Indians. When Gen. Sullivan passed up on his expedition, he found it covered, in immense patches, with growing corn, from Post's Corners to beyond Elmira, a distance of five miles or more. The destruction of this corn occupied portions of the army for several days.

In corroboration of that which is said to have given rise to the Indian word *Chemung*, as appropriated to the river of that name, Judge Baker relates,



that a few years after his settlement upon its plain, he was passing up or down the river in a canoe with one or two others, and at the shore, near what is called the Second Narrows, when they were about to disembark, there was observed, under water, something protruding out of the bank, looking like the root of a tree. It was spoken of as a curious root. Judge Baker requested one of the men to get into the water and examine it; and, if possible, to draw it out or break it off. It was soon found to be no root. Their curiosity was increased, and all got into the water to wrest it from the bank, in which it was partly embedded. They succeeded in getting it out, and found it to be a perfect, though an immense, *horn*. It measured, from one extremity to the other, nine feet in the curve, and was six feet, measuring in a straight line. It was somewhat corroded by time, though not enough to materially effect either its form or coherency. As not much attention could then be paid to curiosities, it was negligently left at a blacksmith's shop, for a long time. Judge Baker intended to have it taken care of, and to have it examined, if practicable, by some competent naturalist. It was left at the blacksmith's shop, as nearly as the writer can recollect, to have a *band* put round, where it was split. After a while, the horn was missing. The blacksmith having an opportunity of disposing of it for a paltry sum, sold it to a pedlar; and it was taken to some of the New England states, and has not been heard of since. A Capt. McDowell, who was taken prisoner by the Indians, and some time with them, saw pieces of a

very large horn, which the Indians said their fathers had found in this river, and therefore gave it the name of Chemung; which signifies *Big-horn*. Capt. McDowell, who saw the horn found by Judge Baker, said he had no doubt but the two belonged to the same animal. Of what species that animal was, is for learned naturalists to determine.

Among the early settlers of the *village* of Elmira, may be mentioned Daniel Cruger, who opened the first store; Cornelius Low, and his partner Jacob Emmons, who were merchants also, and simultaneous with Mr. Cruger, John Conkle, Esq., the first Postmaster, and afterward, it is believed, was State Senator; B. Payne, who was afterward Judge. Judge Payne, in company with William Dunn, built the first grist-mill in the village neighborhood; John Stonher, whose avocation is not now known; Peter Loop, an attorney; Vincent Matthews, who was considered in those early times the first lawyer in the place; Joseph Hinchman, who was the earliest physician settled in the village; William Miller, an early trader with the Indians; Nicholas Gale opened the first tavern; and last, though not least in importance, Simeon R. Jones was the first settled minister.

These *few* founded a *present* village, but a *prospective* city; whose thousands of inhabitants, in their successive generations, are to reach down, in all probability, through the millennium to the latest age of the world.

## CHAPTER X.

IN early day, Sylvanus Delano settled a short distance below Gen. Waterman's dam, called the rock-bottom dam, and a little above the same dam, Levi Bennet settled.

According to the story told to some of the early settlers by Indian Seth, there were two men—whether *Indians* or *white men* does not appear—long before the country was settled by the whites, on the bank of the Susquehannah, somewhere between the rock-bottom dam and the dry bridge—burnt to death at two pitch-pine trees. Upon these two trees the faces of the two men were carved, evidently by Indian hands. These hieroglyphical representations of human suffering and death were to be seen for years after the country was settled; though possibly seen but by a few.

To give also the names of the early settlers, from Mr. Bennet's to the Great Bend, upon the river road, and that too in their order, we should mention, first Joseph Compton; then, one Mr. Hungerford; next, Mr. Slighter; Thomas Cooper; Noel Carr; Mr. Wickam; Ebenezer Park; Mr. Miller; David Compton; Mr. Sneden; Mr. Lommeree; John Bell; Asa Squires; Nathaniel Tagot; Asa Rood; Peter Wentz; Daniel Chapman; David Bound; Garrit Snidaker; Jonathan Bennet, a *very* early settler; Ralph Lotrip; Waples Hanth, at the mouth of Snake Creek. And at the Bend, a Mr. Merry-

man ; Jonathan Newman ; Jonathan Dimon, very early ; Joseph Strong and Henry Smith. Asa Adams and Jedediah Adams settled about one mile and a half above the mouth of Snake creek, on the south side of the river.

The Great Bend was first settled in 1787, the same year in which the valley of the Chenango was, by Maj. Buck—afterward Rev.—and his son Ichabod, better known, however, by the name of Capt. Buck. They settled opposite what was called Pleasant Island, on the north side of the river, a little above the "*painted rocks*." The rocks upon the southern shore, at the place alluded to, come quite down to the river brink, and stand perpendicular in stratas to the height of thirty feet. Some parts of them formerly presenting quite a smooth surface. Upon this surface the early settlers found painted in an ingenious, though rude, style, the representations of various animals, such as panthers, bears, wolves, and wild cats. They have, however, long since been defaced, so as now to be invisible. They were evidently painted by Indians ; but when, or by whom, is not known. The Indians cotemporary with the early whites know not. Capt. Benajah Strong, a year or two after the first settlement, settled on the south side of the river, where the tavern stand now is ; Ozias Strong settled on the north side, where Esq. Thompson lived for many years, and where Loure Green now lives ; Jonathan Bennet—afterwards deacon in the Congregational Church at the Bend, settled where the Mr. Thomases now live ; a Mr. Mitchel settled at what has since

been called Harmony. These constituted the earliest settlers at the Bend and its immediate neighborhood. They purchased their lands of Mr. Frances, of Philadelphia, whose patent embraced this part of Susquehannah county.

Previously to Maj. Buck's settling at the Bend, there was a man by the name of Holton, and some few associates with him—Ganson and Fairbanks were the names of two of them—found their way to these banks of the Susquehannah, and located themselves for a while upon them, living a sort of bucanier life. It is said that they fled from Shay's rebellion in Massachusetts, soon after the war. Their stay, however, was only temporary. They are supposed to have killed two Indians that came up from Chenango Point, to gather apples from their trees at the Bend. These were three large and noted apple trees, which stood, and either all or a part do still stand, not far from the northern abutment of the bridge. One of these that were slain was called Ben Shanks. It was known that he belonged to the Indians at Chenango Point.

Antonio—or, as the name is more commonly spelt, *Antone*—the chief of the Indians at Castle Farm, and indeed of the Indians of this entire section of country, informed Capt. Buck that there were two white persons put to death at the Bend. They were prisoners who were brought from the Chemung—one was shot in attempting to make his escape across the river. The other was put to death at the "three apple trees," before alluded to. The bones of whom were found and religiously buried by Capt. Buck.



One George Andrews and a Dutchman were taken prisoners, some few years, it is believed, after the war, from near the Delaware, and carried by the Indians up the Chenango river, where they intended, it appears, to execute them. While here, Andrews overheard the Indians, who were four or five in number, talking, during the night, among themselves of executing their prisoners the next night or next day.

Andrews, at a convenient time, made this known to his companion, and proposed to him, that they should make a desperate attempt to effect their escape. The Dutchman cowardly shrunk from the proposition. Andrews, therefore, made no reliance upon his comrade, but laid his plan for his escape; which he effected, by killing, nearly or quite, the whole party.

There was a tribe of Indians, a remnant of the Delawares, that resided before and during the war, at what is now called Deposit. The place was called by the Indians "the Cook House." By this name it was known in the time of the war.

Tom Quick is spoken of as a famous Indian hunter, though nothing more is known of his history by the writer, except so much as this: that his feats were performed generally upon the Delaware river. Ben Shanks and Hotashes, whose names are barely known, not in connection with any event, were roving Indians, that were considered as outlaws, and belonging to no particular tribe.

Antone informed Captain Buck also, that he was a descendant of the Delawares that were

defeated in what was called the *grasshopper war*, at Wyoming. Hence we learn the chief's origin; and hence may infer the probability that the *few* of the Delawares that survived that war, settled here at Chenango Point and at Oquago.

Capt. Buck is now about eighty years of age, living retiredly seven miles *up* Snake creek. He retains his mental and bodily faculties to a remarkable degree. It is remarkable, that almost all the revolutionary men have their age, accompanied with unusual vigor of body and mind, protracted beyond ordinary limits. Capt. Buck, as well as his father, served through a considerable portion of the war, engaged particularly against the Indians and British on the Mohawk under Gen. Ranselo.

Capt. Buck relates the anecdote, that while a part of the scene of war lay in the neighborhood of the Mohawk, Capt. Brant had *straggled* from his troops, some little distance; and rising a steep hill, when near the top, he suddenly *met* an American officer whom he well knew, and who was rising the other side, and had made the same approximation towards the top. They came very suddenly upon each other. They both drew up, *instanter*, their rifles, with which it seems they were armed, and fired; they then drew their swords; but before coming *quite* within the reach of these weapons, Capt. Brant turned and fled; and the American Colonel at full speed after him. The issue of the strife, for some time, remained doubtful. The Colonel would gain a little, and would come near enough to reach his enemy; but necessarily coming partially to a stand,

while making the *blow*, he would loose ground ; which it would take him some little time to recover. In this manner he made several ineffectual passes at Capt. Brant, only now and then marking his back with the extreme point of his sword ; and at length gave up the chase. These two men, after the war, met at a treaty, and Capt. Brant pleasantly remarked to the Col. that it was not *gentlemanly* to *mark* another upon his back.

Daniel Buck, who has already been spoken of, as first in the settlement of the Bend, being of good natural parts, and having received, for the times in which he lived, a more than ordinary education, though not classical ; of a ready utterance also, and possessing a zeal beyond his compeers, for the honor and advancement of the christian religion ; after expressing his desire for the ministry, he was received into that sacred office. Pursuant to this, the Rev. Mr. Badger, a brother to Lemuel Badger, of Oquago, was sent out from New Concord to ordain Mr. Buck, who was also, by the same Rev. gentleman installed the pastor of the Congregational church of the place.

This infant church, the earliest instituted of any in our entire section, had been organized the year before, 1789, by a Mr. Stephens from Albany county. It was composed, at first, of the following members : Jonathan Bennet, jun., Asa Adams, a Mr. Merryman, Oriah Strong, Oratia Strong, Benajah Strong, jun., James Mitchel, and James Mitchel, jun., Moses Bnnnet, Stephen Murch, a Mr. Bishop, and Nathaniel Gates, with the wives, generally, of these

men. These families must have composed nearly all the settlers of that neighborhood. Indeed, it is said that, in nearly all the families from the mouth of Snake creek to Harmony, beyond the Bend, morning and evening prayers were offered ; and not one family in this whole distance, in which there was not *one* or *more* of the members pious. But in the course of five and twenty years, instead of nearly *all* the families being pious, not but *two* or *three* were to be found entitled to that sacred epithet.

This declension took place some years before the death of Mr. Buck, their minister. The causes of so great a change are not particularly known, except we refer it to the general depravity of men.

The death of Mr. Buck took place in 1814. After this event, infidelity, by many, was openly and publicly avowed ; and its abettors went so far, as to hold their meetings on the Sabbath, and to read Paine's " Age of Reason," to the multitude. They showed their hostility to the christian religion, by attending meetings for divine worship, and either succeeding with their's immediately, before the christian congregation had dispersed ; or they would commence before the stated hour of christian worship. Meetings then were held in a school house, in which the whole community felt they had an equal right. The magistrate of the place, however, who took a part in this demoralizing cause, too active for his own interest or lasting reputation, was, in consequence, finally deposed from his office.

The congregation here was destitute of a stated ministry from the death of Mr. Buck until about the

year 1830. In 1824, a Baptist church was formed by Elder, and also Judge, Dimmick, of Montrose.

In the summer of 1827, three or four Indians were down from Oneida to the Bend, whose object was to dig for treasures, that had long before been hidden. The little party consisted of a very old man, one that passed for his son, and a young female, who passed as grand-daughter, and who served as interpreter. The treasure which they obtained from digging in different places, was said to be considerable. It was carried away upon a horse, which they had brought for the purpose. The old Indian must have been one who had formerly resided in the parts.

Putnam Catlin, Esq., a gentleman of professional education, settled first, and early, in Oquago, but for some twenty years he has resided at the Great Bend. He has a situation of sufficient beauty to be called a *seat*, upon the bank of the Susquehannah, a moderate distance from the bridge, and upon the south side. He is the father of the much celebrated George Catlin, who has, beyond all controversy, immortalized his name, by his "Indian paintings."

Whilst the vicinity of the Great Bend has not a large and flourishing population, with correspondent improvements, to boast of; it stands upon, and is surrounded by, a scenery beautiful as the pencil of nature could well have rendered it. The beauty of its scenery will undoubtedly attract to it, as the country becomes settled, gentlemen of taste and fortune.



## CHAPTER XI.

OLD Oquago, now Windsor, is distinguished as having been the ancient dwelling place of a tribe of Indians ; evidently, too, for a long series of years. It is situated upon the Susquehannah river, near the northeast angle of the Great Bend, fourteen miles in a straight course from the village of Binghamton. It appears to have been a half-way resting place for the "Six Nations," as they passed south to Wyoming or its neighborhood ; or for the tribes of the Wyoming valley as they passed north. Their path over the Oquago mountain, and also over a mountain this side, nearer the village, was worn very deep, and is still plainly visible. From the point, at the village of Binghamton, they appear to have uniformly struck *across* to Oquago, instead of following the curve of the great bend of the river. It is a beautiful vale, from three to four miles in length, and from a mile to a mile and a half in width on both sides of the river ; with an easy and nearly regular slope to the top of the hills that run parallel with the stream.

The evidence we have of its great antiquity, and of its distinction at some date or other, is, from the numerous and valuable trinkets that were found by the whites when they came to dig and plow upon its plains. The apple trees also found growing there, of very great size, and of apparently great age ; their number, too, and the variety and richness of the

fruit ; all indicated the antiquity and importance of the place. A great number of human bones from various depths below the surface, were thrown up from time to time. Some of these were of peculiar formation. A scull was found with the lower jaw attached to it, which had an entire *double row* of teeth ; a *single* row above, but *all* double teeth.

Deacon Stow, who grew up on these plains, mentions two kinds of trinkets which he had often found himself. One, of a triangular form about an inch from angle to angle, made of silver, and flat, of the thickness of a ten cent piece, with a hole near one angle ; supposed to have been worn for a pendant, at the nose. Another, of silver also, made of a gridiron form, and about the circumference of a half dollar. Supposed to have been worn at the ears.

There were the remains, or rather the entire form, of a fortification, near the river, plainly to be seen by the primitive settlers. It was so constructed as to meet the enemy from the river. From the appearance of its *recent* construction when the whites settled the country, the impression was, that it was erected when Gen. Clinton passed down the river, in his Indian expedition. Behind it were found many war implements. It is most probable, however, that it was constructed long before this, as it does not appear that the Indians made any resistance at this place, or even showed themselves. The story of them is, that at the time the waters of the Susquehannah were—to them preternaturally—raised to an overflowing of its banks, in consequence of

Clinton's breaking away his dam at the outlet of the Lake, they were very much alarmed upon observing it, and supposed the Great Spirit was about to drown the world ; and at the approach of an army so soon after, they were terrified, and fled with precipitation behind the distant mountains ; taking time only to bury their most valuable articles. These they disinterred upon their return ; which, as the same tradition says, consisted principally of pewter vases, trinkets, one or two iron kettles and a grindstone.

If this tradition is true, it is true only of those few that remained in the valley ; the larger part of them, embracing their chiefs and warriors had left at the commencement of the war, and had joined those of their brethren that were in arms *against* the colonies. They might have been home the winter previous to the expedition, as it appears that Capt. Brant, and, most probably many others of the chiefs and warriors took up their winter quarters in Oquago. At the commencement of the war, the Indians of this place told their missionary—whose name is not now known—to go home ; informing him at the same time, that they were about to take up arms against his country.

The valley of *Ohnaquaga*, as it was anciently spelt, was inhabited by a part of the “ Five Nations,” sometimes unitedly called the Iroquois. They appear to have been, from time immemorial, piously and virtuously disposed. After an Indian school had been instituted at Stockbridge, by the Scotch Missionary Society, long before the time of the

French war, the Indians were among the first to resort thither for christian instruction. When a large number of them went to Stockbridge, in the time of President Edwards, the sachems of the Mohawks recommended, in council, to Mr. Edwards to use them with peculiar care and tenderness, as excelling their own tribe in religion and virtue.

Mr. Edwards—afterward President of Princeton College—while a minister at Stockbridge, took a deep and lively interest in the Ohnaquagas. He procured for them in this early day, a missionary—a Mr. Hawley—accompanied by three other persons, Mr. Woodbridge, and Mr. and Mrs. Ashley. Mrs. Ashley, it appears, was employed, during her stay, as interpreter. The three latter returned; but Mr. Hawley remained their missionary until the commencement of the French war; when it was considered unsafe for him to remain any longer with them.

About one year previous to this event, Mr. Edwards sent one of his sons, a lad of about nine years old, to Oquago, under the care of Mr. Hawley, to learn the Indian language, in view of his becoming an Indian missionary. When the French war commenced, a faithful Indian, who had had a special care of the lad, took him at intervals *upon his back*, and conveyed him safely to his father. This lad was afterward President of Union College.

Notwithstanding all the vicissitudes through which these Indians passed, so unfavorable to the existence and progress of christian piety; and notwithstanding all they had seen in mere nominal

christians, so unfavorable to the same, they appear ever after the establishment of the christian religion among them, to retain a predilection for it.

The valley of Oquago was settled by the whites, about the year 1788. The earliest inhabitants were John Doolittle, who appears to have been the *very first* white man in the settlement, located himself about four miles above the present bridge, on the west side of the river, near where his widow and son now live. David Hotchkiss, who appears to have been next, with his two sons, Amraphael and Cyrus, at that time young men, settled a little below the bridge, on the west or south west side of the river, on the very place where another son of his, Frederick Hotchkiss, Esq. now lives. Mr. Hotchkiss and his family moved from Waterbury, near New Haven, Conn. He came in the next year after John Doolittle, 1789. He took up a large tract of land, on both sides of the river, upon which there had been some improvements, purchasing only the possession of a Mr. Swift. This was a little before the land was patented, or, at least, before the patentees were known to the settlers. John Garnsey took up a patent of 1000 acres next below Mr. Hotchkiss, toward the Pennsylvania line. He left this to his sons, of whom there were many. They all, however, left. The Ellis' patent came next on the river, north, and embraced the land of David Hotchkiss. It consisted of seventeen lots of two hundred acres each; of which Mr. D. Hotchkiss took ten. Next, on the north, was Hammond's patent, embracing about four or five thousand acres. Secretary Har-



pur came next in his patent, extending to Jericho, a distance of eight or nine miles.

To the honor of Secretary Harpur, it may here be related, that, for one or two years, he paid the taxes for all those who had taken up land upon his patent, saying to the collector, as he came round, "the people upon my tract are poor, but industrious; I will therefore help them."

The same year in which David Hotchkiss came, there came several other families; and the year following, several more; and, indeed, every following year added to their number. The location of these early settlers were nearly as follows: On the east side of the river, as the traveller came down from Jericho, the first inhabitant to be met with was Lemuel Badger; the next his brother Edmund; next, John and Jacob Springsteen; next was Capt. James Knox. He would next meet with the habitation of William Moore and Isaac Churcher, near the old Fort; next was John Stuart, a revolutionary man, who died in consequence of over-eating, in the time of the great scarcity; next, Edward Russell; and Asa Judd, next to Mr. Russell. Below the present bridge was Nathan Lane, Esq.; and next to him was Azariah Hatch. Crossing the river, and returning upon its western side, our traveller would first meet with Ebenezer Garnsey, Maj. John Garnsey, a Dr. Garnsey, and a Mr. Potter; all living on the Garnsey patent. Next to these was Judge George Harper, who lived about one half mile below the bridge. It was the son of Judge Harper, that was shot, as he was passing through the beech

woods, by Treadwell; an event still fresh in the memory of many. Mr. David Hotchkiss' location was next. Mr. H. was noted for his generosity to the poor; refusing often, in time of scarcity, to sell grain to those who had money; but letting it go to those who had none. He was the first magistrate appointed in the place. Next to him was Maj. Josiah Stow, about one mile and a half above the bridge; next above Maj. Stow's was Jonathan Andrus; and last upon the west side, in the settlement, was John and Abel Doolittle.

The most of these early inhabitants of Oquago came from Waterbury, in New Haven county, Conn., and Watertown, in Litchfield county, Conn.

Mr. Josiah Stow, who generally went by the name of Major Stow, as he had borne that office in the French war, and was well entitled to its honor, came from Danbury, in Conn. So did also the rest of the Stow family.

On Maj. Stow's location were a great number of the ancient apple trees, of which we have just spoken. They were of a great size; some of which are standing to this day. The opinion of the first settlers with regard to the age of these trees, was, that they must be nearly or quite a hundred years old, at the time of the settlement. The fruit was of an excellent quality, and of various kinds. Some of the apples were large enough to weigh a pound; and were fair and round. They stood without order—as is generally the case in Indian orchards—and their bodies ran up, with but few or no limbs; very high; showing, evidently, they had grown up

in a forest. As a great number of human bones were, in after years, plowed up from under these trees, the supposition is natural, that here was their burying ground. They evidently paid great respect to their apple trees, partly, it may be, because they shaded the graves of their fathers.

An anecdote is told of Maj. Stow, which may be thought, by some, to favor this opinion of the ground of their reverence. It at least illustrates the courage and firmness of the man :

In the early part of the Major's residence here, he, one day towards evening, observed an Indian, with his hatchet, girdling one of these ancient apple trees upon his premises ; upon which he went immediately to him, and demanded, in a stern voice, what he was doing, and the reason of his conduct. The Indian made some reply, in his own tongue, of which Mr. Stow could only understand the word "Sullivan, Sullivan," and which the Indian repeated several times. The Major commanded him to desist ; but the latter continued hacking the tree. He then told the Indian he should blow him through, if he did not. He had his rifle in his hand ; so also had the Indian, his lying near him upon the ground. The Indian cast his eye, several times, first at his rifle, and then at Maj. Stow ; but observing him prepared to fire, and his brow *knit* with resolution, he desisted ; thinking it not worth while to risk his life for the sake of killing the tree, nor wise to engage at such fearful odds. He went down to his canoe at the bank, and sullenly made off, down the river. The Major, however, was cautious enough

to follow the Indian at an invisible distance behind, for a mile or more, lest the Indian should turn back and fire upon him. He many times remarked afterwards, that this was the only Indian he was ever afraid of.

The probability is, the savage had come there with the design—and who can wonder at it—of girdling those venerable trees, now in the possession of strangers and enemies, the fruit of which his own tribe for a half century or more had eaten.

Samuel Stow, the elder, and father of the present Deacon Stow, came in at a later period, in 1793.

In about the year 1794, there was what was called the *pumpkin* freshet, in the month of August; the Susquehannah rising much above its usual height, and sweeping down in its tide the productions of the fields; corn, pumpkins, potatoes, &c. A great scarcity was the natural consequence. During this scarcity, Maj. Stow shouldered a bushel of wheat, in which the *whole neighborhood* had a common share, and started for Wattles' ferry to mill, a distance of more than forty miles, carrying his grist the whole distance on foot. He got his wheat ground, and returned in the same trudging manner. During his journey he purchased one quarter of a pound of tea—at that time a rare article with the settlers—to help out the repast, which he anticipated at his return. Upon his arrival home, the neighbors, who held an interest in the grist of wheat—and most probably others also—collected at the Major's house, to hold a sort of thanksgiving; which was to be celebrated by preparing and partaking of as sumptu-

ous a feast, as their stores would admit. Out of the flour they made *short-cake* ; but having no hog's lard, they would have come short of this luxury, had not the Major bethought himself of some *bear's grease*, which he had in the house, and which answered as a substitute. Their tea was quite a new article to them, for which they were not prepared. They had no teakettle, no teapot, no teacups. Instead of the first, a small kettle was furnished to boil the water in ; they put the tea into the same to steep it ; and instead of cups and saucers, they used a wooden bowl, which they passed around from one to the other. Still they made a merry cheer of it ; *felt* the glow of sociability, and told each his best anecdote. These early inhabitants, when they became old, would tell the story to their children and more recent inhabitants, with moistened eyes ; but said, it was then a heart-felt thanksgiving and a merry time.

The inhabitants of Oquago *since*, have at times, been reduced to such straits for the want of bread, that the temporary relief given by a loaf or a cake, has been followed by tears of gladness.

Wattles' ferry—or rather beyond, some number of miles, at Bennet's mills—was the place to which the inhabitants were obliged to resort for milling their grain, until a gristmill was built, some eight or ten miles beyond Deposit, at a place then called the *city*. Although this was a great distance—it would be supposed at this day—to go to mill, still it was but little more than half the distance to the former place.

In about the year '97, being eight or nine years



after the settlement of the place, the inhabitants found themselves able to erect mills among themselves. Mr. Lane built the first gristmill. He built a sawmill about the same time. Mr. Doolittle built a sawmill but a short time after. According to the recollection of some, Mr. Doolittle built his sawmill previous to Mr. Lane's building his. Amraphael Hotchkiss built the first mills upon the Susquehannah. Secretary Harpur, while he resided in New-York, sent a *woman*, in 1792, to superintend the building of a gristmill and sawmill upon his patent, by the name of Peggy Ludlow. She proved, though a *woman*, an efficient agent, in conducting that part of his business. David Hotchkiss built the first framed barn, which is yet standing. They now began to have the conveniences of life more within their own neighborhood. As the productions of their land began to increase to a surplus, a market was opened for them at Deposit, on the Delaware, and the surrounding neighborhood; as the inhabitants of this latter section were turning their attention, as they settled, to lumbering, instead of clearing and cultivating the ground. The inhabitants of Oquago have, from the beginning, been cultivators of the soil. The legitimate consequences of this divinely appointed employment, are said to be happily exemplified in the superior happiness and morality, if not the prosperity, of the place.

The first christian society formed in Oquago, was Presbyterian; and this was early formed. It was the nursery of many eminently pious persons of both sexes.

No *tribe* of Indians was found living in the vicinity when first settled. There were a few scattering ones, individuals and families, residing in the parts, who remained for some number of years. The Indians who professed to reside at the Castle farm, had their range, it appears, from the Forks to the Point, on the Chenango river; and from Windsor and the Great Bend, down to Union on the Susquehannah; and the same Indians were familiarly known in all these places.

Other settlers, though not so early as those who have been mentioned, should be recorded. Jasper Edwards settled next above Mr. Stuart, on the same side of the river. He was taken by the Indians at Minnisink and carried to Canada; but afterward made his escape. His descendants are still in the place. Elmore Russell, the father of the present Elmore Russell, was an early settler. He served throughout the revolutionary war; but in the latter part of it, he ran away and enlisted on board a man-of-war, under Commodore Truxton; was taken a prisoner off the coast of the Bermudas, and lay in irons seventeen days. He survived all this, however, and lived to be surrounded with a family. His daughter, when a little girl, found a large ring, which was supposed to have been once the ornament of some chief's daughter. As it was too large for her finger, she wore it upon her *great-toe*. When upon a visit to Connecticut, she ascertained that it was of pure gold.

Henry Richards is mentioned as one of the *earliest* settlers. He located himself where his son

now lives. Mr. Richards bought the lot that the Indians gave to Amos Draper. He came from Wyoming about the same time that Capt. Leonard did. Five years elapsed from the time of his first coming into the place before he dare bring his family; so apprehensive had he learned to be, of the danger of a family in the neighborhood of Indians.

Nathaniel Cole, the father of the present Nathaniel Cole, the Innkeeper of Colesville, was the first settler of that place, a small vicinity about four miles north of Windsor. Judge Harpur was also a very early settler there. Samuel Badger, was also among the first; the father of Luther Badger, Esq., a former member of Congress. Secretary Harpur was also an early settler, though not among the first. Putnam Catlin, now residing at the Great Bend, was an early settler at Oquago.

Philip Weeks, who lives four miles below the bridge, on the river road, was, when four years old, brought by his grandfather and mother from Wyoming, immediately after the great massacre. He remembers the catastrophe distinctly. His grandfather, then an old man, the day after the battle, was seated in a chair without the door of his son's house. A fierce looking Indian came up and told the old man he must leave, or his house would be burnt down, in fifteen minutes, over his head. The Indian, with some others, was driving away about forty head of cattle, and had just ordered one to go and bring a yoke of cattle, belonging to his son. The old man told him he could not move, without a yoke of oxen to move away with. The

Indian bid the old man to go in and bring out a table and a bottle of whiskey ; which old Mr. Weeks did. The Indian refused the old gentleman his own oxen, but allowed him an inferior pair out of the drove. The old man immediately set about loading up the cart with the few goods they were allowed to take away. Upon the top of these he set his daughter-in-law, who, the day before, had been made a widow, and with her, eleven grand-children, and drove the cart himself. With these *relics* of a numerous family and a comfortable fortune, he made his way, slowly and painfully, into Orange county. Philip Weeks was one of these children. He remembers that Wilksbarre was burning as they passed. He remembers also all the little incidents on the way. He remembers seeing his mother crying in the morning of the day they started, after the news of his father's death had reached her. His father had likewise two brothers killed, and his mother one. His mother afterward married a Mr. Bennet, brother to the Mr. Bennet that was taken captive with Esq. Hammond, at Mashoppin.

Mr. Roswell Higley, who should have been mentioned before, was quite an early settler in Oquago. He came from Ballstown, and located himself about half a mile above the old fort. Two or three years after his settlement, there came to Mr. Higley's a chief, with some other Indians, desiring the privilege of lodging and eating in his house, while they should be engaged in digging for some brass kettles, which they said had been buried in the neighborhood. They went daily to the task of their search, and

found a number. And when they left, they said there were others, which they had not found. Others were found afterward in the neighborhood of their digging. Isaac G. Higley, the son, says the chief always asked a blessing before their meals, while they remained in his father's house.

The bridge at Windsor was built in 1825.

The Presbyterian meeting house, of this place, was erected in 1800. The Methodist house of worship, in 1833.

An Episcopal church was organized in Windsor as early as the year 1803, by the present Bishop Chase, of New Jersey, then *missionary* in the western part of New-York. This was the earliest Episcopal church formed in this entire section of country; and was the remote origin of the present Episcopal church in Harpursville. The church was organized in Mr. Abel Doolittle's house, where he now lives. The first members were Mr. Abel Doolittle and his wife, with four children baptized; Daniel Merwin, Mr. Knapp, and Mr. Isaac Ruggles.

The first minister of the gospel that preached in Windsor, was the Rev. Mr. Buck, sometimes, by the early inhabitants, called Maj. Buck; as he had held that office in the revolutionary war. Mr. Wiliston, a missionary from Connecticut, appears to have been the next. He is, according to the best recollection, supposed to have formed the Presbyterian church there. Soon after the formation of the church, the Rev. Seth Sage became the settled minister, and remained the pastor for many years; even to the time of his death.



## CHAPTER XII.

THE region of country on the Chenango, near and about what is called "The Forks," and also upon its Onondaga branch, was settled about the time, or very soon after, the settlement made by Capt. Leonard, Col. Rose, and the two Mr. Whitneys. Thomas Gallop was the first white man in this part of the settlement. He located himself just at the lower Forks. He was found living a sort of hermit life, by Mr. John Barker, the next white man in the settlement, living at this time in the "treaty house." Mr. Barker purchased of Mr. Gallop his improvements, and took up his residence, with his family, in the treaty house. Gallop soon after, it is believed, left the region. This treaty house, as it was called, had been erected for the accommodation of the treaty, held at this place with the Indians, by the commissioners of the Boston company. The house stood near where the present toll-house of the bridge stands; rather north west of it, in the orchard. It was a large double log house.

The *lower* Forks are formed by the Chenango and the Tioughnioga—a name given the waters of the Onondaga, from the mouth of the Otselic to their union with the Chenango. The *upper* Forks, which are ten or twelve miles above, are formed by the Onondaga and the Otselic.

A Mr. Lampeer was the first man that ventured

a distance up the Tioughnioga. He settled seven miles up that stream. Gen. John Patterson, one of the proprietors of the Boston company, settled very early, probably next to Lampeer, at the upper Forks; now called Whitney's Point, and precisely where Thomas Whitney now lives. Gen. Patterson had been Brigadier General in the revolutionary war. He was a man of liberal education, and of refined accomplishments. He never became wealthy in this new country, but was highly revered in the vicinity, as one well qualified to lead in their public matters.

Simeon Rogers, who married, after coming into the parts, the daughter of John Barker, settled where he now lives, on the north east side of the Tioughnioga, scant one mile from its mouth.

Besides these, those that deserve to be mentioned as early settlers, were—commencing from Mr. Rogers', and following the Tioughnioga up—John Allen; then Asa Beach; then Solomon Rose, the brother of Col. William Rose, on the north side; then Gen. Patterson, already mentioned; next to him was David Cornwell; Ebenezer Tracy, on the Onondaga; Moses Adams; James Richards, on the north side; Mr. Wheaton, on the north side also; Thomas and Ebenezer Green, on the east side of the Otselic; Jonathan Cowdry and Robert Parce on the opposite side of the last stream mentioned. Nearly all of these persons migrated from Stockbridge, and other parts of Berkshire county, Mass.

John and David Seymour, came in also early, and settled on the south west side of the Tioughnioga, a

little below General Patterson's ; Dr. Wheeler was early in, and the earliest physician in this part of the little settlement ; Esq. Patterson settled near his father, Gen. Patterson ; and Gen. Samuel Coe was the farthest inhabitant up the Onondaga, on the north east side ; upon the Otselic there settled also, in early day, a nephew of John Barker ; three Messrs. Smith, Jacob, Benjamin and William ; a Mr. Shepherd, also, who became afterward a Baptist preacher.

Upon the south east side of the Tioughnioga and the Onondaga, the land belonged to the Boston purchase. But upon the opposite side, and as far east as the Chenango river, it constituted the patent of Mr. Hornby, in England. This patent embraced 90,000 acres. Col. William Smith, who married the daughter of the elder John Adams, and was also Secretary to that gentleman while in England as Minister, became the agent for Mr. Hornby, both in purchasing the tract and in disposing of it. His brother Justus, however, after a few years, became the principal acting agent. From this patent the early settlers, who located upon the tract, took the title of their land.

Upon the Chenango, above the mouth of the Tioughnioga, there was no settlement for a number of years, after the period of which we have been speaking ; and why it should have been so long unoccupied and unimproved is not known.

When this particular section first became settled, there were a number of Indians here, and a number of wigwams. They appear, however, all of them,

to have belonged to the general tribe, or community, found upon the two vallies ; having their particular home and head quarters at the Castle farm. Mrs. Rogers, who has been spoken of as the daughter of John Barker, and who came in with her father's family when about fourteen years of age, was, while young and at home with her father, a very great favorite with them. The squaws would often solicit her company to go with them after whortleberries and other fruit. By being thus often with them, she acquired a knowledge of their peculiarities, and a familiarity with their savage and forbidding appearance, which, in a great measure, removed from her all fears of them, and prepared her for encounters which she afterward had with them.

Mr. Simeon Rogers, her husband, in a very early day, as soon as the roads were opened sufficiently to be travelled, kept a public house, and particularly *liquor* to sell. This exposed her, especially when alone, to danger from the Indians. One day, as she was alone in her house with an infant babe that was sitting upon the floor, nine Indians came suddenly in. She knew them. One of them, by the name of David, and whom she discovered to be much intoxicated, asked her for a gill of rum. She promptly refused him. He instantly sprung towards her with his knife drawn. She, at the same instant, without being conscious of what she did, threw her arms around another of the Indians, who stood nearest her, and who happened to be young Antonio, the son of the old chief. He immediately took her part, and fell upon David ; threshed and kicked him severely ;

then took him out of doors and dragged him to a distance and bid him to lie there. The other Indians all left the house soon, and drunken David they left behind, under an interdict of not moving from his place, for a specified time. They had not been long gone before Mrs. Rogers saw, to her still greater terror, David making his way back to the house, with his face *painted*, one side *black* and the other side *red*, and his tomahawk and knife drawn. This she knew to denote *murder*; and what to do she knew not. Courage, she thought, would most likely defend her; she therefore remained in the house till he came up; or rather—according to present impression—she stepped without the door, to give herself a chance to run, if necessary, leaving her babe within, as she had not time to take it up. He asked where Antonio was. She said he was upon the other side of the house; and pretended to run and call him. But really ran down towards the river where her husband and his brother were at work, some quarter or half mile from the house. Her calls were heard; and her husband not apprehending at all what was the matter, sent his brother. She informed him; and they both moved towards the house. When they arrived, they found the savage David in the house waiting for the liquor, which he was determined to have. He had not molested the child. Mrs. Rogers' brother-in-law bid him, in a manner which carried force with it, to be gone. He cleared, without a reply. He was a fierce and troublesome Indian, even among his own kindred; and was supposed to be shot afterward by one whose



life he had threatened. He had shot one Indian not long before he threatened Mrs. Rogers.

Another Indian encounter she had: One morning it was, an Indian whom she had never seen before, came in and asked for a drink of rum. Apprehending some difficulty if she should refuse him, she let him have one gill. Mr. Charles Stone had been travelling some distance from home, and on his return was taking breakfast at the time. The Indian, after receiving his dram, went away; but soon returned for more. She gave him another gill, as she was alone now, and afraid to deny him. He went away the second time, but soon returned for a quart; she filled his bottle. Sometime early in the afternoon he was back for more—to have his bottle filled the second time. She now mustered courage to refuse him, supposing him to be so drunk as not to be particularly feared. He instantly—for he did not prove so drunk as she supposed—drew his knife, and threatened her life. As she had begun, she was determined to carry her refusal through. She was within the bar, the door of which was very narrow, and the Indian standing immediately in it. Just in the height of her danger, a neighbor, whom she well knew, passed upon horseback; or rather rode up to the door, as it was his intention to stop. He instantly asked, “what is the matter?” she replied, her life was threatened by that Indian. The Indian fled as the man dismounted. He was not pursued, as the danger, by the man especially, was apprehended to be over. After having fed his horse, this neighbor was placing the bridle upon his horse,

when Mrs. Rogers, who was looking out for the probable return of the Indian, saw him rushing towards the man, who did not observe him. By a timely *scream*, she roused the man to his danger. He made his escape the second time, and was no more seen. Mrs. Rogers thinks the Indian intended to strike down the man, and then turn and despatch her. She remarks, that these encounters were so terrifying, and left such an impression, that she never after recovered her former spirit and courage towards them.

Mrs. Rogers remarks, that when the country was yet new, and the inhabitants remote from each other, that pains would be taken, in their neighborhood visiting, to have a day appropriated; and all, except those who could not leave home, to meet at the same place; and those who were from the remotest parts to stay over night and spend more or less of the next day. These parties, she states, were enjoyed with far more than modern zest and social fellowship. That feelings of interest and happiness mantled their bosoms, which now, in her estimation, have scarcely a parallel.

Judge James Stoddard, a brother of Gen. Oringh Stoddard, settled very early in this neighborhood; and, it is believed, on the west side of the Tioughnioga; a Mr. Clark, also, near him; a Mr. Dudley settled on the same side of that river, and north of a small stream that empties into the Tioughnioga, and some distance north of Whitney's Point.

This point or juncture, is formed by the Onondaga and the Otselic, and is called after Mr. Thomas

Whitney, who owns the bridge at this place, the mills also, and a large landed property in the neighborhood. He settled here in the year 1802. Upon the former stream Mr. Edward Edwards and Major David Manning settled in the year 1795.

Mr. Edwards is still living; and indeed not aged, if appearances are a criterion. He is grandson of the distinguished President Edwards, one of the early presidents of Princeton College; and so well known as a theological writer, and for his pre-eminently pious life. He was first cousin to Col. Aaron Burr, and was brought up in the same family with him. Col. Burr's father, who was either the first or second president also of Princeton College, married the daughter of President Edwards, who was the mother of Col. Burr, and the aunt of Mr. E. Edwards. Col. Burr was deprived of both his parents, who died of the small pox, while he himself was quite young. He and his sister were taken into the family of Mr. Edwards' father, who then lived in Elizabethtown, N. J. In this family Col. Burr remained, when not at school or college, until he was grown. Mr. Edwards remarks, that he remembers to have seen his father, on one occasion in particular, chastise his cousin for some of his mischievous tricks. How much the loss of Col. Burr's father and mother, while he was so young, may have contributed towards his blasted fortune and reputation, is not easy to determine.

Mr. Edwards was also an early member of the state Legislature. His membership was in the time of Gov. Jay's administration. He relates an

anecdote of Alexander Hamilton, who was also, at this time, a member of the Legislature. Gov. Jay had given a public dinner to the members. After the cloth was removed, and they were taking their wine, the Governor asked Mr. Hamilton to give a toast. At this period the choice of President was pending between Jefferson and Burr; and it had already devolved upon the house of Congress to decide the great question. Mr. Hamilton filled his glass and said, "May our government not fall a victim to the visionary dreams of a Condorsett"—a leader in the French revolution—"nor to the crimes of a Cataline." Evidently meaning, by the latter, Aaron Burr. John Swartwout, another member, who sat near Mr. Edwards, said, with an oath, but in something of an under tone, "Hamilton shall bleed for that." He was a particular friend of Aaron Burr. Mr. Edwards, who was partial to Mr. Hamilton, could not but blame him for what he had implied in his toast.

A Congregational church was organized in what is called Lisle, in the year 1797, by the Rev. Seth Williston, who had, a short time previously, been sent there by the Connecticut Missionary Society, upon the personal application of Mr. Edwards. The church consisted, in its first formation, of sixteen members, eleven of whom were by profession. In 1801, William Osborn was *elected* to the office of a deacon; but it was not till 1810, that he was *consecrated* by the imposition of hands from the Presbytery; and his colleague, Andrew Squires, was consecrated at the same time.

Mr. Williston employed about half of his time in pastoral duties in this congregation ; the rest of his time he missionated in Union, Owego, and in Oquago. He was installed pastor of the church in Lisle, in October, 1803 ; and from this period he appears to have employed all his time within the pastoral limits of this one congregation, until he was dismissed from it, in 1810.

The church of Lisle was the earliest organized, it is believed, of any west of the Catskill and south of Utica. At the time of Mr. Williston's installation, the council organized what was then called "The Susquehannah Association," taking in some of the northern counties of Pennsylvania.

In the year 1796, Mr. E. Edwards built the first saw-mill on the Onondaga or its waters ; and was nearly, if not quite, the first that came down the Chenango with a *raft*. He subsequently carried on lumbering to a great extent ; and the pine timber of that section being of a superior quality, compensated for his being so far back from the broader stream of the Susquehannah.

The first grist-mill was built much later, by Dr. Wheeler. Previous to this, the inhabitants came down to Castle creek for their grinding ; and when that mill failed for want of water, they were obliged to go to Tioga Point.



## CHAPTER XIII.

THE first person who settled the vicinity of the present village of Greene, as near as can now be determined, was Conrad Sharp, a Dutchman. He settled about two miles above the village. His location determined a number of other Dutchmen to come in, which formed quite a Dutch neighborhood. The settlement of Mr. Sharp took place about 1794.

Others, entitled to the name of early settlers, were, principally, Stephen Ketchum, David Bradley, Derrick Race, Joseph Tillotson, who came in alone and naked-handed, save but an *axe* upon his shoulder. He has, it is said, *cut* for himself, however, since that day, a large estate; Mr. Gray, a Baptist elder; Elisha Smith was also an early settler, and also an agent, for a number of years, in behalf of the Hornby patent. He surveyed the town of Greene, and laid out the village.

The first white inhabitants upon the site of this village, were the French emigrants, who fled from their own country, to escape the terrors of the revolution. The number of families that composed this little band of emigrants, was somewhere between seven and ten. Under what circumstances they left their own country is not particularly known; nor is it known by what means they became acquainted with the part of the Chenango valley upon which they located; nor, indeed, is it known the precise time when they first pitched their *tents* here.

The earliest *one* upon the ground appears to have been Simon Barnet, who, by the by, was not from France, but from the West Indies. He was a Creole. He was immediately from Philadelphia, and was, very likely, sent by the French company, as pioneer for them.

None of these emigrants were *titled* gentlemen in their own country; but respectable, on the score of property and intelligence. They did not, however, bring a great deal of wealth with them, but on the contrary, were comparatively poor. One of their number, M. Dutremont, was a man of considerable wealth, and of very considerable talents and learning. He is spoken of as possessing shining abilities. It was he that contracted for the land upon which they settled. They chose the *east* side of the Chenango, directly opposite the principal part of the village of Greene, which is on the *west* side. The site is a beautiful elevation, standing above an easy acclivity from the river, with a romantic scenery—as the country cleared—around. The purchase was made of William W. Morris and Malachi Treat, the patentees of the land. The patent embraced a tract of 30,000, acres, lying upon the east side of the Chenango river.

The name of another of these exiled emigrant was Charles Felix Barlogne. Capt. Juliand, the father of the two Mr. Juliands, present merchants in Greene, was another. He came into the settlement a little after the first company, in the year 1797. He had spent a maritime life previously, as sea captain. Log houses were built for all the fa-

milies; and provision often carried there from the neighborhood of Chenango Point. There undoubtedly was a vast difference in the circumstances of these families here from what they had been in their own country. But it is remarked of Frenchmen, as a national characteristic, that they can more easily and more cheerfully *bend* down to a reverse of fortune, than almost any other people.

In the year 1794 or '5, the much celebrated Talleyrand, during his stay in the United States, visited his exiled brethren at this place. On his way at this time, he passed one night at Capt. Sawtell's, whose house the hospitable master made free for the lodging and entertainment of travellers, before there was any regular public house opened in the place. Mr. Benjamin Sawtell, who was then a lad, remembers distinctly his staying at his father's. He says M. Talleyrand was accompanied by another French gentleman; that the guests and his father talked during the evening, on the subject of the Catholic religion. He had taken a sylvan jaunt, on horseback, in company with another French gentleman, from Philadelphia to Albany, and made this visit on his way. It is believed that he tarried a number of days, if not weeks, at this place. And when he left, having become acquainted with the son of M. Dutremont, and discerned talents in him which particularly interested this great statesman, he obtained the consent of the parents, and took him with him. Young Dutremont accompanied Talleyrand to France, and became his private Secretary. Talleyrand was of noble birth; of an ancient, but

not wealthy, family. He was club-footed ; on which account his father devoted him in early life to the church, and educated him for the same. He became bishop of Autun, though he had a great aversion to the sacred office. In the early part of his life, during his youthful and ardent days, he was eminently *dissolute* in his habits. He rendered himself conspicuous at court by his insinuating manners ; took an active part in the French revolution ; fell under the censure of the Jacobins, while in England on a mission ; and being looked upon as a spy by the discerning Mr. Pitt, he was obliged to seek refuge in the United States.

The settlement of these French emigrants most probably would have been permanent, had not the leading member of their little band, M. Dutremont, been cut off from them, by an untimely death. In the act of fording a river on horseback, on his way to Philadelphia, he was drowned. This event deranged their financial affairs. He had not paid for the land they then had in possession, and upon which they resided. In consequence of engagements not being met, it reverted back into the hands of the patentees. The emigrants became discouraged ; and after a few years, at most, left their present location and the improvements they had made, and moved down below Towanda, at a place called Frenchtown—now Asylum—where there was also another French settlement, and became themselves a constituent part of it. How many of these original families returned to France, is not known.

Capt. Juliand did not leave with the rest of his

French brethren, but remained in Greene. He was an efficient man in all that he undertook. His seafaring life qualified him to brave, without discouragement, the hardships of a new settlement. To Captain Juliand and to Judge Elisha Smith is given the credit of laying the foundation of the village of Greene, and of its subsequent prosperity.

The village of Greene was laid out into a village form in the year 1806. At first, it took the name of *Hornby*, after the patentee, within whose landed territory the village was located; but after a few years it took its present name, in honor of the distinguished Gen. Greene, of revolutionary fame. Its surveyed limits were at first confined to the west side of the Chenango, but now extends on both sides. The country which surrounds the village is rather beautiful than picturesque or romantic; and the country and village taken *together*, strike the eye of the traveller in a manner that is sure to *effect*, if not charm, his imagination. The whole scene is more than ordinarily beautiful; and this must always remain the case, while there is village and country to look upon. The two also appear like giving growth, and beauty, and wealth, to each other.

Greene is fourteen miles south of Oxford, and nineteen miles north of Binghamton. The village is, in itself, one mile east and west, and about the same distance from north to south. It has within it three churches, eleven stores, two taverns, and one large district school. The water of the Chenango is em-



ployed at the place in propelling one large grist-mill of *five run* of stones, and of uncommon reputation for the flour it manufactures ; one saw-mill, and one clothing factory. The stage route from Catskill to Ithaca passes through this place, upon which there is a daily line ; and also the stage road from Utica to Binghamton passes through it.

There were no Indians in this particular section, when first settled by the whites. But we have to record a most remarkable mound, the relic of Indian superstition and industry. There are now to be seen only some imperfect traces of it. It was situated about two miles south of the village, and about thirty rods from the river bank ; on what is now the farm of Mr. Lott. The mound, before it was dug down or plowed over, was about six or seven feet above the surface of the ground, and forty feet in diameter ; being nearly circular. There was also, till within a few years, a large pine stump in the centre of it, the remains of a large pine tree which was standing when the whites came in. It was *then*, however, a *dead* tree. When it was cut down there were counted 180 concentric circles or yearly growths. Estimating the age of the mound by the concentric circles of the stump, it must have been over 200 years old when this section of the country was settled.

An examination of this mound was made in 1829, by digging, and there were found human bones to a great number ; and lower from the surface, there were found bones that had been evidently burnt ; suggesting the idea, that the mode of disposing of

the dead, when these bones were deposited, was *burning the dead body*. No conjecture could be formed as to the number of bodies buried here. They were found lying without order, very much *jumbled*, and so far decayed as to crumble, or fall apart, when brought to the air and handled. The supposition would not be an unlikely one, that these bones were the remains of bodies which had fallen in battle, and were afterward hurriedly thrown together and buried.

A large mound in Wyoming, though not so extensive in size, nor so regular in form, as the one we have just spoken of, was observed by the early settlers of that country ; and was always understood to be the *tumulus* raised over the bodies of the Delawares, who had fallen in the celebrated battle in the *grasshopper war*. The Indians held the spot so sacred, that the whites never presumed to disturb it. Capt. Leonard, while he was in Wyoming, with a few others, ventured to dig a little into the mound, and found it apparently full of skulls and other human bones. *Tom Turkey*, an aged Indian, told Capt. Leonard that he remembered the battle, and was knowing to the interment.

In the mound near Greene, there were found, lying quite in one pile, 200 arrow heads, cut after their usual form, and all either of yellow or black *flint*. It will be recollected that there are no stone of this kind, found in this part of the state of New-York. In another part of the mound there were found, lying together, about sixty, made after the same form. A silver band or ring was also found,

of about two inches in diameter, extremely thin, but wide, with the remains—in appearance—of a reed pipe, lying within it. The supposition is, that it was some sort of musical instrument. There was also found a number of stone chissels, of different shapes, evidently fitted to perform different species of work. A large piece of mica also, cut into the form of a heart; the border much decayed, and the different laminæ separated.

These curious relics of antiquity are in the possession of Dr. Willard, of Greene, who was the principal person in opening into and searching the mound. His cabinet of minerals and curiosities show his prevailing taste for antiquities, and the sciences allied to them.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

At the time the primitive settlers came, there were no Indians, or vestiges of their's, remaining upon the site of the present village of Binghamton. There was, indeed, an old log house, or—as the white people supposed it might have been—a wigwam, standing at the point, near the banks of the two rivers, where they mingle their waters. It was used, as the same early settlers say, for a lodging place or shelter by the Indians, when they were occasionally down upon their fishing excursions.

There was also built upon the site, a log house somewhere between Colonel Page's and William Wentz's, by Solomon Moore; but ascertaining soon

afterward that he could not purchase the land, Mr. Moore left, and the house soon dilapidated and disappeared.

A man by the name of Thomas Chambers lived in a small log house, standing near the well that stands at the corner, but on the outside, of Colonel Lewis' garden. This was built also before the village was laid out.

The ground of the village did not, in its original and wild state, possess that smoothness of surface which it now presents; having been, in many places, as the village has been built up, materially levelled. Still, taken together, it might be called a plain. It was covered with white and red, or pitch, pine. Swails, as they were called, of swamp white oak were growing here and there upon the lower places. The *white* pine was but sparsely scattered over the plain, and the interval of ground was covered with the pitch pine and shrub oak.

In consequence of the annual burning over of the ground, which was practiced by the Indians, and afterwards kept up for a number of years by the whites, there was little or no underbrush. And even the lower limbs of the oaks and pines were, by the same means, kept trimmed, or prevented from growing; so that a rabbit could be seen at a distance of more than musket shot. The smoothness of the surface, however, was frequently interrupted by huge trunks of prostrate trees, that were too nearly the nature of the ground itself to be materially effected by the transient and annual fires, and were slowly returning to their original dust. After the burnings, there

would grow up every season a kind of spindling grass, which exhibited, *very faintly*, the hue of verdure. Wild roses, and the flower of the mandrake, were here and there seen contributing their mite towards cheering the solitude of the forest; but notwithstanding all these, the plains here exhibited but a barren appearance; and the stone and gravel which lay whitening upon the surface, were by far the most conspicuous. In process of time, however, and without any reference to a future village, there were about twenty-five acres cleared near the junction of the two rivers; about eight acres below the junction on the northern bank of the Susquehanna; about ten acres on the western bank of the Chenango river, nearly opposite the Chenango bridge; and eight acres on the east side, where the eastern end of that bridge abuts.

Prior to the year 1799, no village was thought of where Binghamton now stands. A village, which was supplanted by the present one, was commenced and had made some progress, about one mile above Binghamton, on the west side of the Chenango river, just above the promontory point of what is called "Prospect Hill." It had commenced building up some five or six years previous to the date we have just mentioned; and at the time it was determined to change the location, there were a number of buildings; and a considerable interest concentrated there. A tavern was kept by Lewis Keeler. Mr. Keeler came from Norwalk, Conn. Isaac Sayres, a Colonel, was great-uncle to Mr. Keeler. He was a sea captain in the time of the French war; was



one, with four others, that destroyed the type and stamp paper that was sent to New Haven. Col. Sayres was own uncle to the elder Selah Squires. A printing office conducted by Daniel Crugar and a paper published by the same. Mr. Crugar was, after this, Speaker in the House of the Legislature; was afterward chosen member of Congress. He now lives in Wheeling, Va., and a member of the Legislature of that State. A physician settled there by the name of Forbes. Webster and Lee, brothers-in-law, established and conducted a distillery. Delano and Monroe, in company, were merchants. Lewis Keeler carried on the hatting business also. Judge McKinney commenced a store, and continued something more than a year before moving down to this village.

Judge Jacob McKinney came into the parts in 1800, from Northumberland county, in Penn. He came up the Susquehannah with a boat load of whiskey and other articles, for the purpose of going into the mercantile business here. Dr. Bartholomew also located himself here for some time.

This incipient village was called *Chenango village*. The site chosen for its location, undoubtedly resulted from the situation of the roads at the time, and the location of the main ferry. The road from the Great Bend, on the village side of the river, came down nearly where it does now, as far as what is called the Dry Bridge; it then inclined to the right and led directly towards the point of the mountain before alluded to. Here a ferry was kept. After crossing the river, it inclined down towards the Sus-

quehannah again ; and came into the present Susquehannah or Owego road, some three or four miles below the present village of Binghamton. There was a branch of this road that crossed the Chenango at what was called Lyon's Ferry, kept where Col. Lewis' Mills now are. The fact that the early settlements were all some distance up the river, was the reason of the road's making so great a curve, and running where it did.

The northern line of the Bingham patent ran nearly through the centre of this upper village ; and when Gen. Whitney became, in the year 1800, the agent for Mr. Bingham, for *two* very important reasons, he conceived the design of moving the village down upon the present site : one was, the present location has vastly the advantage over the former—from being immediately between and upon the *two* rivers ; from its being directly upon the line of the great western road that was now opened, and from its containing a more extended area upon which a village of a far greater size might be built. The other reason was, that the patent, of which he had the agency, did not embrace the old ground. He therefore took the necessary measures to divert the attention of settlers and the public to this place, as destined to be *the rising village*. He placed the superior advantages of the newly chosen site before the public ; he bought a number of buildings, of the old village, and had them brought down here. Under the direction of Mr. Bingham, he had the ground early laid out into streets and lots. The size of the lots, as they were first laid out, were three-quarters

of an acre; and the general price for which they sold was twenty dollars. Corner lots were held at a higher price.

Thus the way was paved; and the site of the village of Binghamton was surveyed and laid out into a village form in the year 1800.

Two streets only were opened at first—Court and Water-streets; and the first building put up within the plot, was a dwelling house on Water-street, beyond the present buildings on that street, on the declivity of a hill, a little south east of William Wentz's present dwelling; vestiges of the cellar are still to be seen. It was built by John G. Christopher, in the autumn of the same year in which the village was laid out, and occupied by him for a short time. In 1801, Judge McKinney built a store-house on Water-street, twenty-eight feet square. Its location was near the spot where Horatio Evans' present dwelling house is. Gen. Whitney formed a partnership with Judge McKinney after the completion of the house, and together they filled this large store building with goods. The expense of transportation at this time was twenty shillings or three dollars per hundred from the Hudson. Judge McKinney also built, opposite his store, a house for the storage of grain. This was the second building commenced. The third, and in the same season, was a building erected by Lewis Keeler, on the corner of Court and Water-streets, fronting the latter, for a tavern. It is still in existence, and forms the southern part of Mr. Jarvis' Hotel.

In the same year, 1801, or early in the next, Gen.

Whitney cleared on Court-street, and opposite the termination of Water-street, and erected the building he occupied for a dwelling for some number of years, which is also standing yet ; and is the building, though moved from its first foundation, now occupied for different offices, Cooke and Davis' printing office being one.

In this same year, or, it may have been earlier, Balthasar De Hart, called also Judge De Hart, came into the place. He was from the city of New York, had been bred to the law, and had been, in some manner, connected in its practice with Alexander Hamilton. He had, by some means, become poor, if he had been ever otherwise ; and probably retired here, not so much to mend his fortune, as to escape from the mortification he might have anticipated, in remaining among his former associates. He was originally from New Jersey, where he obtained the title of Judge. His talents, though respectable, were not of a high order, as might be supposed from his having been associated with so great a man as Hamilton. He had a brother here also by the name of James, legally bred, but who seldom plead at the bar.

John Yarrington, a blacksmith, came, it is thought, as early as 1801, and purchased the corner lot where Ely's store is, and built a blacksmith's shop on the western extremity of the lot, about where Pratt and Sampson's hardware store now is. Immediately on the corner he built a dwelling house.

In 1801, Gen. Whitney purchased a frame that stood near Mr. St. John's present dwelling, and set

it up in Water-street, and enclosed it. In this he lived until he finished his house on Court-street. It is the large part of the present dwelling of Esq. Park. Before the house was completed, Gen. Whitney sold it to Esq. Mason Whiting, with a lot of fifty feet in front running back to the river, for one hundred and fifty dollars. Esq. Whiting finished the house; and out of a frame that previously stood beyond the Susquehannah, put a kitchen to it and occupied it as his dwelling. He had come into the place the year before, but in this year he brought his wife.

Mr. Keeler built the barn for his tavern-stand on the opposite and eastern corner of the same block where Mr. L. M. Rexford's present druggist store is. This was soon moved, and Gen. Whitney sold to a Mr. John Townley, who had moved in from New Jersey, fifty feet in front, upon which the latter built a dwelling house. It is the frame and building of Mr. Rexford's present store. Mr. Townley, who was the father of Augustus Townley, of this village, was from Elizabethtown, N. J., of a large, respectable, and wealthy family there. He was a carpenter and house joiner by trade, and being active and skilful in his vocation, rendered himself an important member of the rising village.

In this year also Mr. Daniel Le Roy, an eminent lawyer, came into the place, and having purchased the corner lot north of the Eagle Buildings, built a two story dwelling house nearly on the spot where Bragg and Brown's store now is.

In the same year Guido Bissel purchased a lot upon which there was already standing a plank



house, for his own dwelling. It stood upon the spot of ground where Mr. Zenas Pratt's present dwelling is.

On Court-street, and nearly opposite the present Court House, on the north west corner of Court and Chenango-streets, stood the first built Court House. It was built in this year, 1802, and in size about thirty-six feet by twenty-four; finished in a plain and hasty style, having two log jail rooms, and a room for the residence of the jailor below, and the court room above. It was afterward moved across the road, and stood a little down from the top of court hill, south of west from the present edifice.

In the year 1802 or '3 a Mr. Pratt bought a small building, rudely put together, and but partly finished, of Gen. Whitney, and moved it upon a lot he had purchased on Court-street, and fitted it up for a pottery. It stood where Merrill and Root's present hat store is. It was afterward converted into a dwelling.

In the year 1802, John R. Wildman purchased and built on Court-street, a little east of the Exchange Buildings. This building has been removed within a few years. Mr. Wildman was a tailor, and followed the business for some number of years.

In 1803, Judge Stuart came into the place. He first rented and lived in Gen. Whitney's dwelling house that he first built at the foot of Court-street. In a short time he removed to the John Townley house. After this, in 1805, he purchased the house built by John G. Christopher, on Water-street. Here he resided a number of years. To this dwell-

ing he gave the name of "the cottage house."

The present opportunity may be embraced to give an outline of the history of this distinguished and early inhabitant of the village.

Judge William Stuart was a native of Maryland. At the time hostilities commenced with the mother country, he was sixteen years old, and in the course of his academical studies. Being of an ardent temperament, and burning with a desire to throw his fortune in with the chivalrous young men of his State, who were rallying to the American standard, he ran away from his academy, and without the knowledge of his parents joined the colonial army; and although so young when he committed himself to the army, he served throughout the war, and was in most of the important battles. He had one near relative, a brother, in the army who was killed. After the war he went to Europe, and remained some years in the United Kingdom and in France. After returning, he studied law in the city of New York. He commenced the practice of law in Geneva, where he continued until his marriage with the second daughter of Gen. James Clinton. Soon after this event he moved to this place.

In 1802, one Giles Andrus came into the village; was a carpenter; boarded for a time with Esquire Whiting, and built his office, which is yet standing. He married here, but afterward went to the West, where he died in 1839.

The same year, 1802, Christopher Woods—the father of Caleb Woods—Samuel Roberts, and Joseph Lewis, who had sometime previously settled on

what is now the Montrose road, about four miles from the village, cleared a road from their settlement out to the village. This was the first opening of any part of that road. The land where they were located belonged to Judge Cooper's patent.

In 1803, John S. Townley bought the Mason Whiting house and lot, which the latter purchased of Gen. Whitney ; and Mr. Whiting, in 1805, purchased and built upon the other side of the street, and further south upon the spot where, and the same building in which, he now lives.

Mason Whiting, Esq. received his classical education under Dr. Dwight, at his academy at Greenfield, Conn., previously to his election to the presidency of Yale College. Dr. Dwight, it is well known, was distinguished for his great literary attainments, and his talents as an *instructor*. He studied law with B. Bidwell, Esq. It is proper here to mention also his ancestry, who are traced back to an early period in the history of our country. A paternal grandfather of his was present, in the capacity of a captain, in the taking of Louisburgh from the French, in 1745, by the American and English forces, commanded by Sir William Pepperel, and the fleet by Sir Peter Warren. Many of his ancestors, on the paternal side, were clergymen ; the first of whom, in this country, a clergyman, came from Boston, in England, in about 1676, and settled in the eastern part of Massachusetts. His family name on the maternal side is Mason. The original ancestor in this country was John Mason ; who, associated with Ferdinand Gorges and some others, obtained from

the Plymouth company, in 1621, grants of land lying north of Massachusetts and west of Piscataqua river, embracing the present state of New Hampshire.

Esq. Whiting's wife is the grand-daughter of the Rev. Jonathan Edwards, president, at the time of his death, of Princeton College. President Edwards, it is well known, was distinguished for his eminent piety, his benevolence, and his practical, theological and metaphysical writings.

In about 1803 or '4, William Low, a lawyer, came and settled in the village. Mr. Low remained but a short time a resident of the village, removing soon to Homer. Sherman Page, also a lawyer, came in about the same time, a young man, who also left after a year or two. He now resides in Unadilla, and is an elder brother to Gen. Julius Page, of the village.

Not far from this time David Brownson came into the place, but settled a little out of the village, near and opposite the Two Mile House, a tavern, kept by Mr. Woolverton, on the Owego road, and west of the village.

In the year 1803, Thomas Whitney purchased a lot on Water-street, and commenced building the house, still standing, and the same in which Mr. J. Campbell, the blacksmith, now lives. This lot, and house partially finished, Mr. Whitney sold to Henry Pinckerton, a tailor. Mr. Pinckerton finished the house and rented it to Benjamin Sawtell; and as he had no family of his own, he boarded with him. In Mr. Sawtell's family he died the next year.

In 1804, Esq. Whiting put up a building for his law office. It is the same he now occupies.

In the year 1804, Henry T. Shipman built the south end of Mr. Z. Pratt's cabinet shop. Mr. Shipman came from Saybrook, Conn., and settled in the village in 1803. He was by trade a chair maker and painter. In the latter art he especially excelled. Upon coming into the village he first rented the house just built by John Yarrington, and which stood upon Col. Ely's corner.

In 1803, William Woodruff, Esq. came and settled in the village. Upon coming here, he was appointed magistrate, which office he held for many years. He was the first Sheriff in the newly organized county of Broome; Clerk of the county during two terms of that office; Clerk of the Board of Supervisors from 1806 to 1821. Since that time Esq. Whiting held the office until 1836. He was a man of considerable learning, although self-taught; and his native talent was still more noticeable.

In 1803 or '4, Gen. Whitney purchased the two story building which Le Roy had erected on Court-street, where Brown's store now is; and adding on eighteen feet, he appropriated the eastern end to a store, in which Esq. Woodruff was now a partner, and leased the larger part to his brother Thomas Whitney. Mr. W. immediately opened a tavern in it. This building, in about 1805 or '6, was consumed by fire, at mid-day. It was re-built, however, the same season; and to expedite the building, a frame was brought from where Esq. Whiting's present dwelling is. After the second building was



erected, Esq. Woodruff was the landlord in it, and the store was discontinued. The building was afterward moved to the corner of Henry and Washington-streets, and is now owned and occupied by Lorenzo B. Olmstead.

Selah Squires, who had been an apprentice boy in the hatting business to Lewis Keeler, while the latter carried it on at the old village, in 1803, being now out of his apprenticeship, he purchased the corner lot where now the Eagle Buildings stand, and built a sort of edifice which answered first for a hatter's shop, and in it he commenced the hatting business; it answered also for a dwelling house, to which use it was afterward applied, after undergoing several additions and alterations. It was taken down, when the first Eagle Buildings were put up.

About this time, or earlier, Dr. Bartholomew came into the village. He was without a family here; was a graduate of Yale College; a man of great medical knowledge and skill; rough in his manners, but kind in his feelings, and especially so towards his patients. Previously to his coming into this village he had been in the mercantile business at the old village in company with one John Bartlett. After this connection dissolved, Dr. B. returned to his family in Coxsackie, whence he came, and Bartlett entered the lumbering business, getting masts and spars, until he failed in business.

In 1804, Lewis Squires, brother to Selah and James Squires, came into the place. He was a house carpenter, an active, efficient man, and one of the principal architects in the buildings that were

erected after he came. The first purchase he made was the lot on Court-street, where the Exchange Buildings stand. Here he built a dwelling house. He soon afterward bought on the opposite side of the street a lot and built a dwelling house. This he occupied himself for some time. It was standing when the canal was in process, and was divided, and one half of it removed to make way for the passage of that channel. The other half was taken down the present season, 1839, and has given place to the large three-story brick building, designed for stores and offices, built the present year by John A. Collier, who owns almost the entire block or square, of which this building and its site are a part, and embraced between Court and Hawley-streets, north and south, and between the canal and Collier-street, east and west. He has given to the block the name of "Le Roy Place," in honor of Daniel Le Roy.

In the year 1802, Crosby and Blanchard, who should have been mentioned before, came into the village from Philadelphia, and purchased the storehouse formerly occupied by McKinney and Whitney, and filled it the second time with goods. These they sold out, without replenishing the store again, and dissolved their connection. Blanchard went to Owego, and after a temporary stay in that place returned to Philadelphia. Crosby entered into partnership for a while with Gen. Whitney in a store, and then appeared to retire from business. During this suspension from other business, he built a large addition to the storehouse, and raising it two stories, made a large and elegant dwelling house of it. To

this he added a kitchen, with garden and door-yard fences. The whole finished in a style superior to any thing before exhibited in the village. He died soon after their completion. Previous to his coming here, he had been clerk to Mr. Bingham.

In the fall of 1805, James Squires came into the village from Connecticut. And as his brother Selah was disposed to sell, in order to go farther to the west, James bought of him his corner lot and house. In 1806, Mr. Squires purchased a lot upon the corner of Washington and Hawley-streets, and built a tannery. This was the first building on Washington-street ; which, however, was not opened for some years afterward. Mr. Squires went from his dwelling to his work by a mere path, through the oak and pine bushes.

As early as 1802, Judge William Seymour became a resident in the village, and commenced the study of the law, under Mr. Le Roy. He had just finished his preparatory studies when the county of Broome was organized ; and he received his license from the first court held under the new county. He remained in the village, subsequent to his license, only about one year, after which he removed to Windsor ; where, as a lawyer, he had the undivided business of the place. From 1812 to 1828, he held the office of Justice of the Peace. In 1833, he returned to Binghamton, upon receiving the appointment of first Judge of the county. In November, 1834, he was elected member of Congress.

In the autumn of 1805, Dr. Elihu Ely settled in the village. His place of nativity was Lyme, in

Conn. He studied medicine under Dr. Hall, of Middletown, of the same State. Attended a full course of medical lectures in the city of New-York ; an advantage which medical students did not commonly avail themselves of in that day. He commenced the practice of medicine immediately on coming into the place. After about one year he opened a small druggist store in a part of a building that stood on Court-street, between the present Exchange Buildings and Hayden's saddler's shop. The next year, 1807, he purchased a lot on the same street, but farther east, upon the declivity of the hill, and built a storehouse—the same that was taken down the present season. In this he opened a store, of a general nature, and of considerable magnitude, for that early day. In 1810, he purchased a lot immediately opposite the Court House, and north of the lot which belonged to James Park, who was on the corner. For this lot, which was one acre and a half in size, he gave \$300. In November of the same year he bought the lot, of one acre, upon which the Bank stands. In 1811, he purchased the building and lot in which he first opened his druggist store. The building was a dwelling, in which Mr. Wildman formerly lived ; and of whom the Dr. purchased. The lot contained two acres, and the whole was bought for \$1100. In this dwelling he lived for a number of years. In 1813, he bought the lot upon which his present dwelling is, and which embraces the brick store of Bragg and Brown. In later years his purchases of village property have been numerous. Dr. Ely laid aside his practice in

medicine in 1832. He was active in forming the first medical society in the county, of which he was the treasurer.

In 1806, James and John Park, twin brothers of Esq. George and Rufus, purchased the corner lot on Chenango and Court-streets, opposite and west of the bank ; built a storehouse and opened a store. The building was lately taken down.

In the same year Lewis Squires purchased where the Exchange Buildings now stand, and built a dwelling house, of two stories, in which he lived for a short time. This building was torn down when the Exchange Buildings went up. After building, the following year, he exchanged with Mr. Le Roy the said house and lot for other property, and moved his family over into Water-street, in a small house standing near Mr. John Doubleday's present dwelling. In this year 1806, the county of Broome was organized.

In this year, also, Rev. John Camp moved within the precincts of the village, into the house owned by the widow Crosby, and which had been lately vacated by the death of her husband. Mr. Camp had lived in the immediate neighborhood of the village since the year 1802, in a log house which stood near the north bank of the Susquehannah, about midway between Gen. Waterman's Mills and Mr. Quaife's Brewery above. The house was comparatively old when Mr. Camp occupied it ; having been built as early as 1788, by Nathaniel Delano. Mr. Delano was a blacksmith ; had a bellows and anvil, and did a little at blacksmithing, but very limited, as



there was as yet no iron to be obtained. He left, after a few years.

The Rev. Mr. Camp was originally from Plymouth, Conn. He had been designed by his parents, more particularly his father, in the education he received, for the Episcopal ministry. He, however, entered the Presbyterian ministry. He received the title of Master of Arts from Yale College, his Alma Mater, in 1780, about which time he was married. Some time after this he settled over the Presbyterian congregation at New Canaan, where he remained the pastor for nearly twenty years. He was deprived of his ministerial functions when he came here, although he sometimes preached when invited. He lived here in very considerable obscurity, and reduced to the necessity of laboring in some petty business; and that, too, without understanding it.

He was esteemed in his day, as a popular and able minister, whose preaching was always acceptable to every class of hearers. The contrast between his former and latter life must have been mortifying to himself, as well as painful to his friends. He remarked one day while here, as he sat upon his *shaving horse*, at work, "the time was," said he, "when every person who met me, *bowed* to me; but *now*, none bow to me but my *old horse*."

In 1807, Mr. Zenas Pratt came into the village from Saybrook; went into the cabinet business, and a part of the time worked as a house carpenter. The shop he first worked in was the south part of his present shop, opposite his dwelling. Soon after

coming into the place he purchased the lot where he now lives, of Henry T. Shipman, with a plank house upon it. This had served as a dwelling for Mr. Shipman, since 1804, at which time the latter purchased the premises. In 1816, Mr. Pratt removed the plank house, and built the rear or kitchen part of his present dwelling. In 1831, he built the front part of his house.

In 1807, Mr. Whitney built a store east of his dwelling house.

In the same year, Mr. Benjamin Sawtell built a two story dwelling house on Water-street, which is yet standing; and is next south of Mr. Pratt's cabinet shop. In this house he dwelt for several years.

Mr. Benjamin Sawtell is the son of Capt. Sawtell, who was among the very first settlers of the country, and who settled upon the very farm which had been occupied by the celebrated Patterson, who, by fraud, contrived to obtain a title to the Castle farm. He moved here from Vermont. Was at the battle of Bunker's Hill, and Captain of the militia towards the close of the war. Mr. Sawtell, the son, was about thirteen years of age when his father moved into the parts. He remembers distinctly the leading events in the history of the settlement and of the village down to the present time. He has been a very active and skillful mechanic, as carpenter and house joiner, and has been employed in most of the edifices, from the first building of the village down to the last important building that has been reared.

In the same year, 1807, Judge Monell, then a young man, and lately admitted to the bar, came

into the place. The next year he built him an office, which stood on Water-street, on the west side, somewhere between John D. Smith's yellow and white buildings. He continued the practice of law here until 1811, when he moved to Greene. He is now Circuit Judge.

It was in the year previous, that is, 1806, that Christopher Eldredge came into the village, and first went into partnership with Mr. Le Roy, in the mercantile business.

In this year, 1807, Judge McKinney took charge, as landlord, of the Keeler tavern-house. Benjamin Morse was living, at this time, on the corner where Col. Ely's store is; a saddler. On the opposite corner, where Rexford's drug store is, lived Andrew Farling, and kept a tavern; only, however, a short time. He left suddenly, having taken *alarm* at an effigy he found at his own door, early in the morning, mounted upon a *wooden horse*, with a *note* attached to it, that thus he should be served, if he ever afterward was found guilty of *whipping* his wife.

In 1808, Daniel Rogers, a lawyer came into the village, and entered very soon into partnership with Daniel Le Roy.

In this year the Chenango Bridge was built, at the sole charge and direction of Lucas Elmendorf, of Kingston, Ulster county. A more particular account of this bridge will be given in another place. This was an important step in the progress of the rising village. The river was no longer an obstacle to villagers or foreigners in passing upon the highway.

In the year 1809, Mr. Le Roy purchased on the west side of the Chenango, and built for himself a dwelling house ; the same that is yet standing, and occupied now by James S. Hawley. Several buildings this year went up on the west side of the river, an easy transition being now formed from one bank to the other.

David Brownson built the Peterson tavern-house, and opened a tavern. He had formerly kept the ferry where the bridge now stands.

The same year Arnold Burrell, a wagon-maker, and the father of Arora Burrell, built upon the south west corner, and opposite Mr. Brownson. The house is a part of the present dwelling of Mr. Myron Merrill.

Another building, on the north east of these corners, was put up this year by James McKinney, nephew to Judge McKinney. It was built for a store and occupied as such. A Mr. Powell afterward enlarged the building materially, and kept in it a very large store, but only a comparatively short time—a year or two.

In this year, 1809, Mr. John A. Collier settled in the village, then a young man, and lately from his legal studies. Mr. Collier studied law in the celebrated law school at Litchfield, where he went thro' an entire course of the studies of the institution. After leaving this school, he wrote for some time in the office of a distinguished lawyer in the city of Troy. He was licensed in 1809. The next year after his location in the village, he entered into partnership with Mr. Le Roy. In 1812, he purchased

of Lewis Squires a house and lot on the south side of Court-street. The house was divided and a part of it removed to make way for the passage of the canal. This was the first purchase he made of real estate. In 1815, he purchased a lot and built the house in which Mr. Charles B. Pixley lives. Mr. Collier, from the time of his coming into the place, has had a large share of practice, through the medium of which, with other conspiring circumstances, he has acquired great wealth, as well as a large share of celebrity. In 1818, he was appointed District Attorney for the county of Broome. The first that had been appointed exclusively for this county. Previously to this date, the districts to which the state attorneys were individually appointed, were very large; embracing several counties. That over which Judge Stuart presided as attorney, extended at one time to Niagara. In this year, 1818, the Legislature provided that one should be appointed for each county.

What was formerly Watts' Patent, was purchased by John A. Collier, in 1835, and lies about midway between Binghamton and Colesville, containing about 14,000 acres, and purchased for \$10,000. In 1823, Mr. Collier, in company with eight others, purchased of Barzillai Gray, one of the heirs of Arthur Gray, fifty acres, on a portion of which, that fell to his own lot, his present mansion house is located.

In the year 1827, Mr. Collier built the house next south of his office, on Franklin-street, where his brother Hamilton now lives, for his father, Tho-



mas Collier, who is still living, and both aged and venerable; a happy representative too of the age that has just gone by.

Mr. Thomas Collier was born in Boston, in the year 1761. His father, Richard Collier, is said to have been the first—the earliest—brazier in that city. Mr. T. Collier was present when the tea was thrown overboard in that harbor. He witnessed most of those exciting events in that city, which hastened hostilities. He is familiar with the leading events of the war that succeeded, and was personally acquainted with many of its distinguished officers. He served an apprenticeship in the printing business with his uncle, Thomas Draper, who printed one of the earliest papers in Boston. Mr. Draper dying a few years previous to the war, his widow conducted the establishment in her own name, until the commencement of the war; when, being a royalist in her sentiments, she went to England and took with her her niece, the sister of T. Collier, then a little girl. This niece resided with her aunt in London until she was grown, and then married a Mr. Hamilton—after whom Hamilton Collier is called—who was for some time Clerk to the House of Lords.

Mr. John A. Collier, in 1828, built his law office. In 1829, in view of building a new Clerk's office, where it would be less exposed to fire, Ammi Doubleday and Samuel Smith were authorized to sell the old office, which stood on the south side of Court-street, and a little east of the present Eagle Buildings, in a neighborhood that was then fast building

up. Mr. Collier purchased this office and the lot upon which it stood, and purchasing the other half of the same lot, which had been previously sold to John C. Swain, upon which Mr. Swain had put up a building corresponding to the office-house, which was then three stories in height. The two united, constituted the building that was burnt down the last season in the great fire. In 1830, Mr. Collier was elected member of Congress. In 1837 and '8, he built the elegant mansion house now occupied by him, and called *Ingleside*.

As this mansion house is entitled to more reputation for elegant proportions, beauty, and even grandeur, than probably any other private dwelling in this entire section of country, it may be proper to speak of it with some particularity. It is situated on the north side of the village. The main body of the building is 42 by 44 feet, exclusive of the wing, with a basement story. A double front, one looking towards the Chenango river, the other upon the gardens and pleasure grounds, with elegant colonades upon each front. The porticos are of the Ionic order, and the style and proportions are upon the most perfect principles of architecture ; the proportions being modelled after the Illysis Temple. Five fluted columns, twenty-three feet in length, and two feet eight inches in diameter, with bases and carved capitals, support each entablature. The drawing rooms are entered by folding doors ; and if it is proper to speak of things within, they are richly furnished.

In the year 1809, also, came Col. Oliver Ely, a

brother to Dr. Ely. He spent the summer and winter here ; writing a part of the time in the Clerk's office for his brother, who was then deputy clerk, and taught a school the rest of the time during his stay. He returned home in the spring, and in the fall of 1810 he came back, and went immediately into mercantile business, in partnership with his brother. This mercantile connection remained until 1819, when, having purchased the corner lot upon which his present store stands, at a price of \$700, he dissolved with his brother, and commenced business alone. The small red dwelling house which stood upon the lot, and which was built, it will be remembered, by Yarrington, he moved north to the site of his present dwelling, and built a store upon its foundation. The red house he occupied as a dwelling, until he built his brick house, in 1831. This building, while on the corner, was occupied for a while by John A. Collier. It now stands on Hawley-st., south of the Court House lot. The buildings connected with his store, and extending down Court-st., he built some time after his store, and separately ; but in 1825, he made such alterations in them as enabled him to put one entire roof over the whole. In 1831, he built his present dwelling, which is of brick, and stands on Washington-street, at the northern extremity of his original corner lot. It is forty by fifty feet, and of a proportionate height ; built at an expense of between four and five thousand dollars ; and may be justly esteemed, besides its intrinsic utility to the proprietor, an ornament to the place.

## CHAPTER XV.

IN the year 1810, Dr. Tracy Robinson became a resident of the village. Dr. Robinson came here from Columbus, in Chenango county, of this state, where he had practiced medicine for ten years. Previous to this he had practiced one year in Sherburne. This was the first of his practice. Dr. R. studied medicine first under a Dr. Manning, of Lisbon, in Connecticut. The latter part of his study was conducted under Dr. Thompson, of Brookfield, Madison county.

Soon after coming into the place he purchased where Mr. Merrill's hat store and Mr. Rugg's law office are—a lot, dwelling house and store for \$800. He went immediately into the druggist business, occupying the store for that purpose, and continued, at the same time, the practice of medicine. In 1812, he took Dr. Ammi Doubleday into partnership with himself, in the two departments, for the term of five years. Before the expiration of this time, Dr. Doubleday took the druggist business into his own hands, and Dr. Robinson opened a store of dry goods; practising at the same time, and at this particular time too, conducting the press. He continued the dry goods store for about three years, and then practiced medicine exclusively for some three or four years. In 1819, he went into the tavern-house where Mr. Jarvis now keeps. Here he continued ten years with Maj. A. Morgan, his partner.

During this time he discontinued practice. He gave to the establishment, of which he was landlord, the name of the "Binghamton Hotel," which it has ever since retained.

At the expiration of these ten years, he resumed the dry goods business, in which he continued till 1833, when he was appointed Postmaster, which office he still continues to hold. He was appointed Judge and Justice of the Peace in 1811. At the adoption of the new constitution, in 1822, he was appointed first Judge of Broome county. This office he held till 1833, when Judge Seymour was appointed in his place.

Since the establishment of the Episcopal church in the place, Dr. Robinson has been almost continually an active and important member of its Vestry.

In 1810, a Mr. Atwell came into the place, and made a contract for a lot, where the Phenix Hotel is, and built a blacksmith's shop and followed the business; but with this business he connected—incongruous as it may appear—that of teaching a dancing school and playing the violin for his pupils. He would work at his blacksmithing in the day time, and teach his dancing school at night. Men of the first respectability of the place attended; so ready were they to avail themselves of but a poor opportunity to acquire this important art.

In this year, 1810, George Park, Esq. became a resident of the village. He came to this place from Amenia, Dutchess county, which is his native place. He studied law under James Tallmadge, Esq. of Poughkeepsie, and was admitted to the bar in 1811.



He was deputy clerk in 1817 and '18, doing the entire business of the office under A. Doubleday, the principal; appointed Surrogate in 1822, and held that office for thirteen years; was a Commissioner of Deeds from 1820 to 1834; was elected Justice of the Peace in 1829 and holds that office still. Esq. Park, in 1812, married the daughter of J. G. Bessac, a French gentleman, who came to this country during the revolutionary war, as one of the Staff of Count Rochambeau. M. Bessac married, in this country, the daughter of Col. Nichols, of Dutchess county; and the daughter, Mrs. Park, exhibits, even now, the results of an early education, far superior to that of most—even of the educated part—of American females.

Esq. Park has, for a number of years, turned his attention, in his leisure hours, to the science of mineralogy. During sixteen or eighteen years he has been collecting minerals; and his cabinet consists now of about 300 specimens, exclusive of shells, petrefactions, &c. which he has obtained, in his correspondence, with remote parts of the world, as well as from his own section of the country.

In this year also Marshall Lewis, the father of Col. H. Lewis, of the village, moved his family into the place; built a saw mill and grist mill where his son's mills now are; a man of enterprise and business talents, as well as of mechanical genius.

In the same year there was built a two story school house, through the enterprise of Mr. Le Roy, on the west side of the river, on Front-street, a little south of Mr. Merrill's dwelling house. It was

taken down by Mr. Collier. This house was built to induce settlement on that side of the river.

In 1811, Mr. Lewis St. John came from Canaan, Conn., with a young family, and settled first on the old road as it led down from the old Chenango village, where Deacon Smith now lives. He and his father at this time purchased together. In 1815, he purchased where he now lives, on the west side of the Chenango. The purchase or farm contained 107 acres, lying within the present corporation limits; i. e. from Front-street west to the western boundary of the corporation, and from the Susquehannah north to within forty rods of Main-street. The purchase was made of Mr. Le Roy, at \$20 per acre; and about one-fourth part, at that time, cleared. The rise in the value of land has made the purchaser wealthy.

In this year, 1811, Mr. Myron Merrill came into the village. His parents moved from West Hartford, in 1800, to Sherburne, Chenango county, when he was eleven years of age. He served an apprenticeship with his brother at the hatting business. Upon coming into the place he commenced business on the west side of the Chenango, and north side of the road, and in the second building from the bridge, yet standing. He purchased where he now lives, in 1818, for \$1100. He married the daughter of Asa Robinson, the father of Peter Robinson, of the village. Mr. Merrill was concerned with J. Whitney and S. Weed in putting up the stone building, and the brick building adjoining, which were opposite and north of the Binghamton Hotel. He

was in the mercantile business from 1822 to '27 with Richard Mather; engaged from 1828 to '35 with Mr. Leavenworth in the same business. He has been a member of the Vestry of the Episcopal church nearly the whole time of its existence here; was an original proprietor of the Susquehanna Bridge. He and Mr. Root entered into company in the hatting business, both as merchants and manufacturers, in 1833, and still continue that relation.

In this year also came Col. Joseph B. Abbott, when only fourteen years of age, with the family and under the care of Lewis St. John. He served an apprenticeship with Mr. James Squires. He went into business in 1820 for himself, in company with Lewis Squires, whose daughter he married in 1821. Mr. Abbott soon after this travelled into the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia, to inform himself of men, and of his particular business. He, with his father-in-law, built for their tanning operations, on Court-street, which were taken away by the passage of the canal. They, in company, built, in 1828, the old tavern-house, called from the beginning, the "Broome County House," which was destroyed in the great fire. The stand had been previous to the fire sold for \$10,000. Mr. Abbott's brothers, William and Charles, became partners with him in 1836.

As late as 1811, the shrub oaks and yellow pines were standing within four rods of the Court House.

In this year, James C. Smead came and set up

blacksmithing in Water-street, where his shop now stands.

In the year 1812, John S. Townley, who has been spoken of as an early settler in the village, and as an active and important mechanic, suddenly and mysteriously disappeared; and it is not known to this day what became of him.

In 1812, several chiefs visited the village from Oneida, to make enquiry relative to the possibility of re-obtaining the Castle farm. From this it appears they were the natural heirs of those who were once its proprietors. They called upon John A. Collier for counsel. Upon enquiry, Mr. Collier found that they could not produce available testimony before a court, he therefore could give them no encouragement.

Maj. Augustus Morgan appears to have been the principal, if not the only, addition made to the village inhabitants this year. Mr. Morgan, either immediately, or soon after coming into the village, went into the printing business. In 1819, in company with his father-in-law, he kept the public house where Mr. Jarvis now keeps, then called the "Binghamton Coffee House." Its present name was given it by Dr. Robinson. In 1820, he went into the staging business; and since that period has had a large interest in extended and remote lines in different parts of the Union.

The next year, 1813, Thomas G. Waterman became a resident of the village. The place of his nativity, and from which he migrated, was Salisbury, Conn. He was educated in Yale College;

studied law under Judge Sherwood, now a distinguished lawyer in the city of New York. Mr. Waterman has written and published a work, entitled "The Justice's Manual." This work has had a wide circulation, and has passed, it is believed, through three editions. He has been a member of both houses of the State Legislature, one year in the House of Assembly, and four years in the Senate. Mr. Waterman married the daughter of Gen. J. Whitney. Mrs. Waterman received from her father, as a marriage dower, the corner house and lot where the Eagle Buildings now stand, which had been lately purchased of James Squires. The edifice Mr. Waterman enlarged and improved, and attached to it a small law office. Here he lived until 1818, when he moved to Front-street, where he now lives. Gen. Waterman is now extensively engaged in the lumbering interest, and transports yearly to market about one million of feet ; sending his lumber by the Chenango and Erie canals to Albany, Troy and New-York.

From this time forth and previously, there were men in it who were well qualified to give order and stability to the legal and financial interest and proceedings of the village, and happily disposed to induce and encourage both by their example and direct or indirect precept, business tact and habits. This contributed largely to lay the foundation for that order, precision, industry, economy, and consequent prosperity, for which the village may be distinguished. The legal knowledge of gentlemen of the law came materially into requisition, to expound the



law of the land, and to explain the rights and duties of men in their new relations. This greatly facilitated and rendered more safe the commercial intercourse of the village inhabitants.

In 1812, Dr. Ammi Doubleday came from Lebanon Springs, in Columbia county, to Berkshire in Tioga county, where he remained but a few months; he then removed to Windsor, and boarded in the family of the present Deacon Stow; here he remained but for a short time, and came into this village in December of 1813, when he went immediately into the druggist business, in partnership with Dr. Robinson, and practiced medicine at the same time. This partnership continued about one year; and after the close of it, Dr. Doubleday continued the business alone about the same period. He then sold out the establishment to his brother, John Doubleday, who had, since his coming into the village, been his clerk. After dissolving his connection with the druggist business he went to superintend the lime works, about eight miles above the village, on the west side of the Chenango. Here it is believed he remained until he was appointed county Clerk, in 1817.

Dr. Doubleday, even previously to his appointment to the clerkship, had discontinued the practice of medicine, probably from having entered so largely into other business. Since the close of his clerkship, which was in 1820 or '21, till within a few years, he has been engaged in the purchase and sale of village property. He has lately had charge of a section of the great water works, designed to sup-

ply the city of New York with water. He has at this time charge of the first and second sections of the New-York and Erie Railroad.

Dr. Doubleday acquired his medical knowledge, previous to his license, of Dr. De Lamater, a physician of very great celebrity, both as practitioner and as professor in the medical school at Pittsfield, Mass. Dr. D.'s attainments in medicine, even at the time of his commencing practice, is said to have been much above mediocrity. His attainments also in mineralogy, which have been made since in his leisure hours—and such the most industrious may find—are well worthy of notice and commendation.

In this year John T. Doubleday, brother of Dr. Ammi Doubleday, came into the village. He married the daughter of Esq. M. Whiting, who has already been spoken of. Mr. Doubleday has turned his attention for a number of years to gardening as a science, to botany, and to mineralogy. His garden, though not large, contains a great variety of plants and flowers. Many of them are wild flowers, brought under cultivation, and several foreign and rare plants. Mr. D. has for many years been a member of the Presbyterian church. Mrs. Doubleday, his wife, has written recently a volume, entitled "Hints and Sketches." It is of a religious character, and is written in an easy and perspicuous style.

In this year, 1813, Mr. Benjamin Sawtell built a store for Christopher Eldredge, where Col. Lewis' store now stands. In raising this building, the company of a recruiting officer, Capt. Danvers, was

invited to assist in raising. This occasioned less regularity and care in the erection ; the consequences were nearly fatal. The frame, when about two-thirds raised, fell, and materially hurt several. That, with two others, built since, have been raised two stories high, with a brick front, and one roof put over the whole.

In this year, Stephen Weed came into the place from Westchester county. Mr. Weed has employed himself in a variety of business, and has acquired a handsome estate.

In 1814, John B. McIntosh came into the village from the city of New-York, a tailor. This business he has uniformly followed since. He first bought and built on the south side of the causeway, which extends from the foot of Court-street to the end of the red bridge ; at that time a part of the bridge itself. His house was one story above the bridge and two stories below. Three others, built in the same manner, with the buildings united, and thus formed a little row.

In the year 1814, also, Julius Page, now General Page, came into the village, and entered as apprentice clerk to Mr. Whitney and Mr. Eldredge, who were then partners in mercantile business. Gen. Page, was born in this town in 1799, the son of Jared Page, who settled as early as 1791, at the mouth of a creek emptying into the Chenango, opposite Big Island, called since Page's Creek. Gen. Page, when a child, was obliged to be familiar with the sight of the Indians, and with the papooses, though he states he was always afraid of them. In

1820, he commenced business in Lisle. The next year he commenced business in the village in Court-street, in a small wooden building where Whiting and [Squires' present store is, then owned by Mr. Whitney. There were then only one store on the north side of the street besides Gen. Page's; and on the south side two stores, Eldredge's and Hawley and Tompkins'. In 1823 he purchased a lot where his store now is, on which then stood a shed belonging to the tavern-house. It was a part of the original tavern lot, and bought for \$150. In the same year he purchased the house and lot where Judge Robinson now lives. In 1825, he purchased where he now lives, of his brother; the house and out-buildings in a very unfinished state. In 1839, he received Mr. R. M. Bailey, from Berkshire county, Mass. into partnership in his store.

In 1815, Samuel Smith, Esq. became a resident of the village. He, with his wife, moved from Westchester county. He went immediately into the tanning and currying business, which he has prosecuted ever since. He early built the house in which Dr. Brooks now resides, and lived in it until he built his present dwelling house. He was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1825, and held the office for ten years; was Supervisor one year.

Mr. Richard Mather came from Lyme, Conn. in 1815, and entered as clerk in Col. Ely's store. He went into business for himself in 1823. In 1824, he built on the west side of the Chenango river, where Mr. Hall now owns and lives; built his present residence in 1838; built after the modern style

of large pillars. His brother Henry came into the village much later, in 1828 ; but entered immediately into partnership with his elder brother in the mercantile business. They have both been successful in this branch of enterprize. They married sisters, the daughters of Esq. M. Whiting ; and have been members and able supporters of the Presbyterian church for a number of years.

Sylvester Mather, the father of Richard and Henry, was master of a vessel employed in the West India trade. He was lost at sea in the year 1811, of whom no trace was afterward heard. He was bound, when he left the last known port, to the Island of Antigua. His widow, who is still living, and lives in this village, was left with seven children, so young as to be dependent upon the wisdom, exertion, and provident care of the mother. Mr. Mather was a descendant of Increase Mather, whose celebrity, as a pious, efficient and early clergyman of New England, has reached down to our day.

In this year, also, Peter Robinson, Esq. came into the place. He had then lately graduated at Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N. H., of which state he is a native. He studied law in this place under Gen. Waterman, and was admitted to the bar in 1819. Mr. Robinson was a member, and an active and able member too, of the State Legislature for six years, terminating in 1831 ; one term of which he was chosen Speaker of the House. He has always been considered an able advocate in the courts of his own county. He has held the office



of Surrogate, and been magistrate for a length of time.

In 1816, Mr. Jonas Waterhouse and family came from Hunterdon county, N. J., and settled where Mr. C. Eldredge now resides. He purchased a farm upon that location of four hundred acres. This farm constitutes an important part of Mr. Eldredge's premises, where he lives. He built the west end of Mr. Eldredge's present residence. He occupied these premises for about twelve years, and kept the ferry at the crossing place until the Susquehannah bridge was built. Owing to financial embarrassment, he was obliged to part with his property for much less than its appropriate value.

In 1817, Mr. Le Roy left the village and moved to the West.

In the year 1818, Maj. Martin Hawley came into the village. He bought of Joshua Whitney, the store now occupied by Col. Lewis. Upon going into the mercantile business he took as a partner, Mr. Gilbert Tompkins, who had become a resident in the village about the same time. In 1821, he bought the house now owned and occupied by Daniel S. Dickinson, Esq., then in an unfinished state; and after fitting it up, nearly answering to its present style, he moved his family into it. In 1828, he purchased of the agent of the Bingham estate, in conjunction with Col. Tower, nearly all the vacant lands in the eastern part of the village plot, amounting to about seventy acres. It was then covered with oak and pine, which, in a short time, he cleared and sowed with wheat. In the year 1829, and

subsequently, at different times, he purchased of the State, and of the heirs and assigns of the late Judge Cooper, about 2500 acres of land lying between the Susquehannah river and the state line. This tract had been occupied either by purchasers under Judge Cooper, or by squatters, to the number of about twenty families. At the time Maj. Hawley made these purchases, the residents had nearly all abandoned the land, and condemned it to sterility, and as unfit for cultivation; but being of an opinion that this notion had been taken up from mistaken premises and a very imperfect trial of the soil, and feeling desirous to redeem the up-lands of the county from the unreasonable—or at least unfavorable—prejudices they seemed so generally to lie under, as well as the laudable purpose to cultivate the land under his own supervision, he moved on to the tract in the spring of 1833. He commenced a dairy of fifty cows; and by various experiments and improvements, he soon ascertained that these lands, in common with all the up-lands of Broome county, are of an excellent quality for all the *grasses* that are cultivated in this country; and abundantly capable, with suitable cultivation, of producing *grains* of all kinds, even sufficient to sustain a dense population. Maj. Hawley remained upon his Cooper tract for three seasons, when he returned to the village; and having subdivided his village land into lots, he has since been employed in building upon some, and disposing of others.

The same year, 1818, Mr. Gilbert Tompkins came into the village as a resident, from Oneida

county, and went immediately into the mercantile business in co-partnership with Maj. Hawley. In this branch of business, with the same firm, he continued till 1827. Built the corner stone store building, on the north side of Court-street, and opposite Jarvis' Hotel, in 1827. He became one of the proprietors of the red bridge in 1831. At the period of Mr. Tompkins' coming into the village, the price of transportation from New-York was \$3 per cwt.; now, the price is sixty-two and a half cents. He built his present residence in 1830, which is of tasty structure, and stands, though in the midst of the village, yet retiredly situated, on the eastern bank of the Chenango. Maj. Hawley and Mr. Tompkins married sisters.

The year previous, in 1817, Philip Bigler moved into the village. He was originally from Hunterdon county, N. J., and emigrated into Union, in 1805. In 1822, he moved to Utica; and in 1833, he returned to the village, and has since been engaged in the bakery and provision business.

In this year, 1820, Mr. Jeremiah Campbell came into the place and set up his blacksmithing, where he now is.

In 1821, Thomas and James Evans came into the village. They are twin brothers, who came from Tinbury, in Worcestershire, of England. They were mechanics of the first description, and had been in business in England. Their connections in their native country are both wealthy and respectable. Upon coming here, Thomas purchased the corner house which was formerly owned by Tho-

mas G. Waterman, where he lived for a number of years. His present Eagle Buildings occupy the same site. James, the brother, purchased the opposite corner of Dr. A. Doubleday. James now resides in the country, about three miles out of the village. They have both become wealthy.

In this year, also, 1821, Samuel Peterson, the Inn-keeper upon the west side of the Chenango river, came into the village. He moved to this place from Philadelphia.

In 1822 or '3, Hamilton Collier came into the place from Owego; studied law under his brother, John A. Collier, and was admitted to practice in 1829. He received the appointment of District Attorney in 1829.

In 1823, Dr. Silas West came from Vernon, in Oneida county. He immediately commenced the practice of medicine, and went also into the druggist business. He continues the practice of medicine still, and has at no time of his village life suspended it. Dr. West studied medicine in Paris, Oneida county, under Dr. Judd, an uncle of Mrs D. Lanterman; attended lectures at Fairfield, in Herkimer county.

In the same year, David Lanterman came into the village and went first into the druggist business, in partnership with Dr. West, in the *red* store on Water-street. In 1828, he purchased and built where he now lives. In 1830, he formed a co-partnership with Solon Stocking in a store which was kept in a part of the Centre Buildings, and which continued two years. Mr. Lanterman was a

member of the Board of Trustees of the village in 1837.

In 1824, Mr. Solon Stocking was appointed as preacher in the Methodist connection, upon this circuit. Before one year of his ministry here expired, his health so far failed him, as obliged him to relinquish preaching, except occasionally in a local capacity. He married the daughter of Col. Samuel Seymour, of this county, and went into the mercantile business in 1826. He built his Centre Buildings in 1838 and '9.

In the same year, T. G. Waterman was chosen Brigadier General, and Virgil Whitney and Franklin, his brother, Charles W. Palmer, and Richard Mather were his staff.

In this year Oliver C. Bradford came into the place from Cooperstown, and established, upon coming in, his watchmaking and silversmith business, which he has ever since prosecuted. He opened his business first upon the bridge, in what was called "the row," with a partner by the name of Bradley, who is now in Utica, and wealthy.

In 1825, Thomas Allen became an inhabitant of the village, and immediately commenced the saddlery and harness making, in a building immediately west of Collier's corner.

In this year, also, John D. Smith became an inhabitant of the village. Mr. Smith built, or rather finished, the pleasant and tasty dwelling where he now lives; and which may be considered as an appropriate representative of his property. He is a member of the Methodist church.



In the year 1826, Mr. Curtiss Thorp came into the village, and commenced his nursery of fruit trees. His present nursery is about four miles above the village, on the west side of the Chenango. For about eight or nine years he has grafted, upon an average, about 15,000 scions, per year ; principally of apple trees, of the most choice kinds.

In 1828, Charles W. Sanford came from Chenango county to this place, and went into the mercantile business, in company with Levi Dimmick. Since leaving the mercantile business he has interested himself in the purchase of village lots, and has contributed his mite in encouraging foreigners to come in and settle.

In the same year, Levi Dimmick came into the village. He went into the mercantile business, in company with Mr. Charles Sanford, and continued therein three years. Mr. Dimmick was originally from Connecticut.

In this year, an act of the Legislature passed, for the erection of a new Court House in this place ; \$5000 were to be raised in the county for the purpose. Ammi Doubleday, Grover Buel, and George Wheeler were appointed commissioners to superintend the work.

In the year 1831, Daniel S. Dickinson came into the village. He came here from Guilford, Chenango county ; studied law under Clark and Clapp, of Norwich, of that county. He has been President of the Board of Trustees of the village for several years. In 1836, he was elected member of the State Senate. He has distinguished himself on the

senate floor, in almost all the great questions that have come before that body since he has been a member of it; especially the Usury Bill of 1837, and the Railroad Bill of 1838-9. Mr. Dickinson's style of public speaking is of an energetic character. His conceptions are clear, and his language forcible; with a vein of wit, and sometimes sarcasm, running through it.

Lewis Seymour came into the village also in 1831, and commenced the mercantile business in company with James and John Mc'Kinney on Court-st., first door east of the Binghamton Hotel, where Mr. Newton's present store is. Mr. Seymour is a son of Samuel Seymour, who has been mentioned as one of the earliest settlers of Union. He has been engaged in the lumbering business for 25 years.

In this year, also, Joseph K. Rugg became a resident of the village, as a student in the law under Mr. Bosworth, then of this place. In the fall of 1834, he was admitted to the Supreme Court. In '36 he received the appointment of Surrogate of Broome county, which office he still holds. He was admitted as counsellor at law in 1838. Mr. Rugg, among his younger brethren in the law, holds about the first place, both as counsel and as advocate. Mr. Bosworth, his preceptor, is now in the city of New York; a man of talents.

In March, of 1832, John R. Dickinson, a brother to Daniel S. Dickinson, became a resident of Binghamton. He was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court and in Chancery in 1838.

Ausburn Birdsall was born in Otsego county.

He commenced the study of the law under D. S. Dickinson, in Guilford, in 1831; came to this village with his preceptor in March, 1832. He was admitted as Attorney in the Supreme Court, and as Solicitor in Chancery, in 1836; received into partnership with Mr. Dickinson, his preceptor, about the same time. Mr. Birdsall was honored with the commission of brigade Major and Inspector in March, 1836, which office he still holds.

In 1832, General Vincent Whitney was elected member of the Legislature. In the same year he was elected Brigadier General of the militia. In 1833, he was re-elected to the Legislature.

In 1830, William Wallace Whitney, a brother to Gen. Vincent Whitney, and son to Gen. Joshua Whitney, went to the south for his health. He married a very rich heiress of Wilmington, Del., in 1832. He died in New Orleans, of the yellow fever, in 1837. His widow has since married Maj. Gen. Gaines, of the U. S. Army.

In 1833, Laurel O. Belden came into the village from Guilford. He was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1836. Esq. Belden, with his habits of industry, is destined to rise in his profession.

In the same year, Levi M. Rexford commenced merchandise in the druggist line. His brother was a partner for a short time; a large establishment.

In this year, also, Joseph Boughton became a resident of this village; studied law under D. S. Dickinson, and was admitted to practice in the May term of 1836. Mr. Boughton stands fair to excel in fine writing.

The year 1834 was distinguished by a great freshet. The waters of the Susquehannah made a passage around Gen. Waterman's mills and wore a channel five or six feet deep, and wide enough to admit rafts through ; adding one-fourth to the original width of the river. In the side of the newly formed bank, below the present furnace, there were found, in several distinct places, *stone* tightly laid together, and forming a concavity, which might have answered, and undoubtedly did, for a *pot* or *oven* in Indian cookery.

William Wentz, son of the elder Peter Wentz, commenced his engineering course in 1833, under Judge Wright, while surveying the New York and Erie Railroad. Mr. Wentz bids fair to *distinguish* himself as an engineer.

In this year, Horatio and Alfred J. Evans commenced their present firm in the mercantile business. For the two years previous, Horatio and his father had formed the company of this establishment.

Dr. Stephen D. Hand came into the village in 1835, from New Lebanon, Columbia county. He was born, brought up, and studied medicine in that place. He graduated at the Berkshire Medical Institution, and received the degree of M. D. from the faculty of Williams College, with which that institution is connected.

In the same year, Benjamin N. Loomis came into the village, and commenced the study of the law under Mr. Rugg ; was admitted as an attorney in the Supreme Court in October, 1838.

In this year, 1835, Maj. P. Mills came into the

village. He is a native of Massachusetts ; was in the Army of the U. S. during the last war with Great Britain, and engaged in most of the actions upon the Niagara frontier. He was reported as "mortally wounded," in the action of Stoney Creek, Upper Canada, where he was left on the field of battle on the retreat of the American Army, and became a prisoner to the enemy. By them he was treated with great kindness, in consequence, as he believes, of a previous acquaintance with Col. Hervey, of the British Army.

In this year, 1835, also came Hamden K. Pratt into the village, and went immediately into partnership with his late brother, William Pratt, who was himself at that time a hardware merchant, and the first established in the place. It still continues of the same character, and is a large establishment. Mr. Pratt is now in firm with J. E. Sampson.

In the same year, Hiram Birdsall, a brother of Ausburn Birdsall, Esq., commenced mercantile business in the village.

In 1836, Samuel Brown, Jr., in company with George F. Bragg, commenced mercantile business where they now are. The sales of this firm are very considerable. Mr. Brown is a nephew of the late Major General Brown, of the U. S. Army.

In the same year, also, Dr. P. B. Brooks came into the village, and re-commenced the practice of medicine and surgery. D. Brooks has, during his medical life, practiced principally within this county.

Samuel H. P. Hall came in 1837, and entered into the mercantile business very largely from the



beginning. He is a native of Middletown, Conn. Previously to his coming into the place he had been in business in Watertown, of this state.

Uriah M. Stowers came into the village when quite a lad, from Towanda, and entered as clerk into R. Mather's store. In 1837, he entered into partnership with Col. Ely, and this connection still remains. The firm do a large business.

The firm of Whiting and Squires commenced in 1837.

In this year, Henry Jarvis became a resident of the village from Poughkeepsie, and entered, as landlord, the Binghamton Hotel, which he still keeps.

In July of this year, also, Samuel Johnson, a young gentleman, and artist, from the city of New York, came into the place. Mr. Johnson is a portrait painter whose genius and skill in the art will inevitably distinguish him. He was born in Washington county, of this state; was inclined to drawing objects around him and ornamental penmanship when a lad at school. He had taken portraits for a length of time before he was conversant with any artist or teacher, whose official instructions he found he had anticipated.

In this year also, Dr. Nathan S. Davis came into the village, immediately, or soon after, taking license. Dr. Davis is from Chenango county, where he studied medicine under Dr. Clark. He attended three courses of lectures at the Fairfield Medical Institution of Herkimer county, from which he received the degree of M. D.

In August, 1838, Mayhew McDonald came into

the village and commenced the practice of law. He is from Otsego county; studied law in Delhi, of Delaware county, under Charles Hathaway, a wealthy and talented lawyer of that place. He was admitted to the Supreme Court as attorney at law and Solicitor in Chancery, in January term of 1839.

In the same year Dr. Edwin Eldridge became a resident of the village. Dr. Eldridge grew up upon the banks of the Hudson. After previous studies, he entered the Medical Institution of New-York, where he attended two courses of lectures. He afterward attended one course at the Institution of Fairfield. He afterward attended two sessions at the Hospital and Eye Infirmary of New-York. It appears that Dr. Eldridge's medical opportunities have been of the first order.

In the spring of 1838, Lorenzo Seymour moved into the village and took charge of the Broome County House; and had been the landlord of it but a short time previous to the great fire, in which this building was consumed. He is now landlord of the Phenix Hotel.

In this year, 1838, on Tuesday night, June 19th, occurred, in the village, one of the most destructive fires ever known in this section of country. It commenced in a tin and sheet-iron manufactory belonging to H. & A. J. Evans, standing in the rear of the corner or Eagle Buildings; and when but a few of the inhabitants had collected, the flames had spread to the rear of the buildings adjacent on Court and Franklin-streets. In about forty minutes the buildings on these two streets belonging to the block,

with one or two exceptions, were wrapped in one entire flame. The loss that was sustained, with the impression left upon the minds of the villagers, will be sufficient to record it, with most of its details, for many years to come.

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## CHAPTER XVI.

WE shall now speak more particularly of the *public* institutions of the place.

There was a Postoffice established as early as 1795 or '6, and Joshua Whitney was the first Postmaster. It was established through his agency, and he contracted for the transportation of the mail from Catskill to this place. He kept the office at his own dwelling, and continued in office until about 1800, when it was transferred to Oringh Stoddard, and kept at Union. In 1802, it passed to the trust of William Woodruff, Esq. who was the first Postmaster in the village. He held the office for about six years, and located it in the tavern-house which stood where Bragg's store now does; and of which he was the landlord. Judge Robert Monell succeeded Mr. Woodruff, and held the office two years. It was now removed to Water-street, and kept in the Stuart house, where also Judge Monell had his law office. He removed both these offices to a room in the Keeler tavern-house, where he was at the time boarding; kept then by Judge McKinney.

The next in order of Postmasters was Judge McKinney, who kept the office where it was already

located. In consequence of Mr. McKinney's moving upon his farm at some distance from the village, he left the office in charge of a deputy until the appointment of another Postmaster. His successor was Esq. Woodruff again. He kept the office in an upper room of the toll-house; he afterward removed it to where Mr. Rexford's druggist store now is; the same building, same room. In about the year 1813 or '14, Judge McKinney was re-appointed. He placed the office in Zenas Pratt's store, who kept where the Phenix Hotel is; in a part of the building that was burnt down. In 1817, the office was transferred to Zenas Pratt, who kept it in his own dwelling house. In 1821, John C. Swain succeeded Mr. Pratt, and kept the office in his store, which stood at the foot of Court-street. In 1823, Virgil Whitney received the appointment of the office. He held it for ten years, and is said to have been a faithful and assiduous officer in the department. To Mr. Whitney succeeded, in 1833, Dr. Robinson, who is the present Postmaster. Dr. R. at first kept the office in the southern portion of Mr. Jarvis' tavern-house. At the completion of the Exchange Buildings he moved the office to those buildings; and the past summer or autumn he again removed it to one part of the Phenix house; undoubtedly for the greater conveniency of the mail stage.

The mail was carried at first, and for many years afterward, on horseback. It was carried through from Catskill to Elmira once a fortnight; and one Charles Stone rode post for several years. In 1810,

there was a mail from the east and west, and from the north once a week, but still on horseback. The avails at this time to the Postmaster was about sixty dollars a year. There are now, in arrivals and dismissals, eight mails per day; and two days in the week, ten mails. The nett avails to the Government is about \$1800 per year.

The county of Broome was set off from Tioga, and organized on the 13th of May, 1806. The officers first appointed to preside at its courts and over its judicial concerns were Gen. John Patterson, of Lisle, as first judge, and James Stoddard, of Lisle, Amos Patterson, of Union, and Daniel Hudson, of Chenango, as associate judges. In 1807, George Harpur, of Windsor, and Mason Wattles, of the same place, were added.

At the expiration of three years, in May, 1809, James Stoddard, Amos Patterson, and Mason Wattles, were re-appointed; and in June, Daniel Hudson was appointed first judge in place of Gen. Patterson; and in September, James Stoddard was appointed in place of Mr. Hudson, who, it is believed, vacated his office by moving out of the county. In October, John Brown, of Berkshire, was added to the number of associate judges.

Under the old constitution of the State there was no specific limitation to the number of ordinary or associate judges. They held their office for three years, and then were re-appointed or displaced; but the *first* judge held his office during life or good behaviour; unless, during his office, he transcended the age of sixty years.



In 1810, George Harpur was re-appointed ; and in 1811, in March, Stephen Mack, of Owego, was appointed first judge in place of judge Stoddard. In May, of the same year, Jacob McKinney, of this village, was appointed associate judge ; and in June, Amos Patterson and John Brown were re-appointed.

In 1812, William Chamberlain was appointed, and Mason Wattles re-appointed ; and in June, Samuel Rexford and James Stoddard.

In 1813, March, Tracy Robinson, of this village, Asa Beach, of Lisle, Chester Lusk, of Union, Joseph Waldo, of Berkshire, George Harpur—appointed the third time—Daniel Le Roy, of the village, and William Camp, of Owego. At this time Owego was a part of Broome county.

In 1815, Briant, Stoddard, of Union, was appointed to a seat on the bench ; also, Jonathan Lewis, of Lisle, Mason Wattles—appointed the third time—and David Williams ; and John R. Drake was appointed first judge in place of judge Mack.

In 1817, William Stuart, of Binghamton, and Anson Camp were appointed.

In 1818, Jonathan Lewis re-appointed—William Stuart still on the bench—and Briant Stoddard re-appointed.

In 1821, Briant Stoddard re-appointed, Thomas Blakslee, David Williams, re-appointed, and Jonathan Lewis. In 1822, David Bartow.

In 1823, the new constitution was adopted. In the same year, under the new constitution, Tracy Robinson was appointed first judge ; and with him

were appointed four associate judges, viz : Nathaniel Bosworth, Briant Stoddard, Thomas Blakslee, and David Bartow.

Under the *new* constitution, the number of judges was limited to five, including the first judge ; all of whom, without distinction, to hold their office for five years ; removable, however, on recommendation of the Governor and consent of the Senate, whenever the former assigned a sufficient cause.

In 1827, at the termination of five years, the same judges were re-appointed, with the exception of Oliver Stiles, in place of Nathaniel Bosworth.

In 1832, Thomas G. Waterman, in place of O. Stiles.

In 1833, William Seymour was appointed first judge, and Dr. Robinson, of Vestal, succeeded by Briant Stoddard in 1834 ; George Wheeler, Grover Buel, and Judson Allen were appointed associate judges.

In 1838, a new commission was issued, and the same judges were re-appointed. These constitute the present bench of judges.

The first cause tried under the authority of the county of Broome, was between Amraphael Hotchkiss and Nathan Lane, jun., a civil suit. The first criminal cause was the people against Ebenezer Centre.

At the organization of the county, Ashbel Wells was appointed Clerk, and moved to this village from Owego. He died about the expiration of his term. His successors have been William Woodruff, Jacob McKinney, William Woodruff again, Mason Wat-

cles, of Owego, Ammi Doubleday in 1817, Latham A. Burrows, Daniel Evans, the first Clerk under the new constitution, and Barzillai Marvin, the present Clerk.

Under the old constitution the Clerks were appointed, not chosen as at present, for the term of three years.

William Woodruff was the first Sheriff of the county, and Jacob McKinney his successor. Their successors have been Chester Patterson, of Union, Thomas Whitney, of Triangle, Oliver Huntington, of Owego, William Chamberlain, of Binghamton, 1817, Joseph M. Patterson, and Maj. Noah Shaw. Under the *new* constitution, Benjamin B. Nichols, of Windsor, Jesse Hinds, of this village, James Stoddard, jun. of Lisle, Robert O. Edwards, of Barker, and Robert Harpur, of Colesville, who is the present Sheriff.

The space occupied in the list of officers that have presided over the courts, and have transacted the public and specific business of the county, is brief; but still, during their official course, more than an age has passed away. Talents and moral honesty have been in requisition for the proper discharge of their duties. They have been the mental and physical organs of the law. They have adjusted the conflicting interest of parties. They have awarded to delinquents and transgressors the retributions of justice, and have kept the archives of the great commercial transactions of community.

The first printer of the village was Chauncey Morgan, an elder brother of Augustus Morgan of

this place. He commenced the operation of his press in about 1811, in an upper room of the present building of Mr. Rexford's druggist store. In the commencement he issued a newspaper—the first printed in the county of Broome—called “The Broome County Patriot.” There had a paper circulated here, which was first printed in *old* Chenango, and afterward in Owego, called “The American Farmer.” While issuing from the former place, it was conducted by Daniel Crugar; and while from the latter, it was conducted by Stephen Mack, afterward Judge of the county. The paper and press passed through the hands of Reuben S. Close and Dr. Ely to those of Dr. Robinson, who, in 1815, enlarged the paper and issued it under a new name: that of the *Phoenix*.

Dr. Robinson continued the conducting of the paper and the operation of the press for three years, during two of which his son-in-law, Maj. Morgan, was associated with him as partner.

In 1818, the Dr. sold his interest in the press and paper to Anson M. Howard, and Mr. Morgan continued now a partner to Mr. Howard.

In this same year, Abraham Burrell started a paper called “The Republican Herald,” espousing the side of politics opposed to those of the *Phoenix*, which latter was Clintonian. In about 1820, Dorephus Abbey purchased Mr. Burrell's interest, and conducted the paper and press in his own name. Abbey, after some few years sold the paper and press to a few individuals of the place, who employ-

ed Burrell as the editor and printer ; and the paper was conducted in his name.

Mr. Abbey met with a tragical end ; the last spring, 1839, he was hung in Kingston, U. C. for his participation with the patriots in the Canada war.

Mr. Howard, the partner with Major Morgan, after a few years failed, and the *Phoenix*, in consequence, was no longer issued ; but in 1823, Major Morgan purchased a new press and issued a new paper called “*The Broome County Republican*.” It is the same in continuance that bears that name now. After this paper got into circulation, it proved to be the more popular paper. The *Herald* gradually declined, and, while in the hands of Mr. Burrell the last time, became extinct.

In 1824, Mr. Abiel C. Canoll came into partnership with Mr. Morgan, and this connection remained until 1828, when Mr. Morgan sold his proprietorship to Mr. Thomas Collier, who had lately taken up his residence in the village with his sons.

Mr. Collier and Mr. Canoll continued their editorial relation until 1830, when the former sold to Mr. Edwin T. Evans. This connection continued until 1835, when Mr. Evans sold his share in the business to Mr. B. T. Cooke. Messrs. Canoll and Cooke continued partners until last July, 1839, when Mr. Canoll dissolved his connection and interest, and sold to Mr. J. J. Davis. Under this new editorial relation the paper and press are at present conducted.

In 1831, Mr. J. R. Orton established a press and



issued a paper under the name of "The Broome County Courier;" in politics espousing the side of the national administration. In 1837, Mr. Orton sold his press and interest in the paper to Messrs. Sheldon and Marble. These last continued the proprietors until the spring of 1838, when Mr. Marble sold his interest in the establishment to his partner Mr. Sheldon; and this latter gentleman continued the proprietor but a short time. The great fire which occurred early in the summer of that year, consumed the press and its appurtenances, and Mr. Sheldon was obliged to relinquish his connection with it. In the course of the summer Mr. E. P. Marble returned from Sherburne, Chenango county, and brought with him a press from that place. The Courier was resumed by Mr. Marble, and issued immediately. After a few months his brother, J. W. Marble, who had formed a partnership in the operation of the press from the time of its re-establishment, came into the place and joined in person. In the following spring, 1839, another change took place. E. P. Marble relinquished his connection with the press, and sold his right to Mr. Thomas Johnson. It is now in the hands of J. and C. Orton.

The present proprietors of the Bridge at the village that lies across the Chenango river, called here the *Red Bridge*, are Gilbert Tompkins, the heirs of his deceased brother Isaac Tompkins, Lloyd S. Daubany, of Connecticut, and Garrit Storm, of the city of New-York. This bridge was re-built in 1825, by Col. H. Lewis as master builder, at an ex-

pense of rising \$3000, and under the general direction of Joshua Whitney. The revenue arising from the bridge at present, and for some few years back, though large, is not so great as in former years, when land carriage was the only mode of transporting commodities into the place.

A former bridge existed upon the same abutments that the present does, with the exception of a wooden causeway at the east end, which extended until it met the ground of its own level. In place of this causeway there now exists the present wide embankment. This former bridge was built in 1808, by Marshal Lewis and Luther Thurstin, at an expense of rising \$6000. Why there should have been so much difference in the expense of the two bridges, does not appear. To the enterprize, perseverance, and pecuniary resources of Lucas Elmen-dorf, of Kingston, Ulster county, is to be ascribed the erection of this first bridge at so early a day.

The present bridge, which is of the same length, breadth, and height as the former, is 30 feet high, 25 feet wide, and 600 feet long.

The bridge at the village across the Susquehanna, called familiarly the *White Bridge*, was built in 1825 and '6, by Col. H. Lewis, at an expense of \$6,200. The act of the Legislature authorizing the building of this bridge was passed April, 1825, and the property of it vested in Christopher Eldredge and John A. Collier, their heirs and assigns. These gentlemen divided the presumptive expense of the bridge into shares. These shares were purchased by the following persons : Elihu Ely, Hazard Lew-

is, Gilbert Tompkins, Myron Merrill, Lewis St. John, Martin Hawley, and Julius Page. These, with Messrs. Eldredge and Collier, were, by another act of the Legislature, constituted a body corporate, under the name of "The Susquehannah Bridge Company of the Village of Binghamton." Under the direction and at the expense of this company the bridge was built.

In the spring of 1837, while an uncommonly high freshet was prevailing, and rendered more powerful by a suddenly breaking away of accumulated ice, about one half of the bridge was carried away.

This bridge is 700 feet long, 25 feet wide, and from 25 to 28 feet high.

The Chenango canal, which terminates at Binghamton and Utica, is ninety-five miles in length, forty-six feet wide, and four and a half feet deep. It is laid in the valley of the Chenango river, on the eastern side, with the exception of about eighteen or twenty miles of the northern extremity, which follows the vale of the Sauquoit creek.

The number of locks on the whole route is 105; forming an elevation above the water, at the mouth of the river, of 303 feet. It was constructed in the years 1834, '5 and '6, at an expense of nearly two millions of dollars.

The chief engineer who was employed in surveying the route, and in superintending the construction, was William Jarvis. Isaac W. Crane had charge under the general supervision of Mr. Jarvis, of the southern section, from Binghamton to the Forks. The act of the Legislature which authori-

zed and assumed the construction of the canal was passed in 1833. Judge Lynde, of Chenango county, presented the bill for its construction to the Senate, and was himself its most able abettor. Like many bills which prove in the experiment of great public utility, it had a tedious and strenuously opposed course in its passage through the two houses of the Legislature.

There are two Banks in the county of Broome, located in this village. One, the Broome County Bank, which has been in operation since the year 1831; its capital is \$100,000, with the permission to extend its issues to once and a half that amount.

The first President of this bank was Myron Merrill; and Cary Murdock, its present cashier, was also its first; Daniel S. Dickinson was its first and is still its Attorney. Its operations are under the superintendence of thirteen directors. The safety of the bank rests upon the safety fund and the correctness of its own transactions; to which there has at no time been any exceptions. Its resources have always been equal to its exigencies, even during the great pressure of 1837.

The banking house was erected in 1832; is elegantly built of brick, fifty feet by forty, and the walls thirty-four feet high, standing on court hill, corner of Court and Chenango-streets, and opposite the court-house; having the advantage of the pleasant elevation of court hill.

The other is the Binghamton Bank, which has only the present year, 1839, commenced its operations. It is constituted according to the late State

provision made for voluntary bank associations. It has a capital of \$100,000, with the privilege of extending it to the high amount of one million.

The officers of this bank are, John La Grange, of Vestal, President; and Calvin L. Cole, Cashier; the present Directors are John La Grange, Calvin L. Cole, Dwight Danforth, and Samuel Brown.

The first public stage that ran through this village was established by Teter and Huntington, in the year 1816 or '17; and ran from Owego to Newburgh; Teter drove himself, a two horse stage, and drove entirely through to Newburgh; a weekly line. He was of Wyoming, and commenced this line of business first by running a stage from Wyoming to Tioga Point. About one year after commencing the Owego and Newburgh line, Mr. Teter exchanged his first partner, Mr. Huntington, for Miller Horton, of Wilksbarre.

In about 1818, a company was formed, consisting of several proprietors, with Mr. Phelps, of Ludlowville, at their head, who obtained a mail contract and commenced running a line of stages upon the same route of Teter and Horton, but made Ithaca their western termination instead of Owego; and ran three times a week. In 1819, Dr. Robinson and Maj. A. Morgan became proprietors in the company.

In 1822, the same company, but with additional proprietors, established a daily line upon the route, and extended the same to Geneva.

The first *post coach* that ever ran through this place was purchased by Robinson and Morgan. It



was the second vehicle of the kind on the route; made after the same form of the present post coaches, with the exception of one door to enter at, instead of two.

In about 1818 or '19, a stage wagon, with two horses, commenced running from Oxford to this place once a week, by Mr. Willoughby, of Oxford; it soon commenced running twice a week. In 1821, George Munsell took the proprietorship and ran the stage twice a week, driving himself. In 1825, he put on a post coach and four horses, and has continued the principal if not sole proprietor of this part of the Utica line since.

In the year 1828, a two horse stage commenced running from Montrose to this place, under the proprietorship of John McPherson, a young man of the former place, and performing one trip a week. It is the same that now runs daily. Mr. Searle soon purchased McPherson's right, and is the present proprietor.

The village of Binghamton was *incorporated* by an act of the Legislature on the third day of May, 1834. By this act the corporate limits of the village were fixed, and the village itself divided into five wards. The first ward was to embrace all that part of the village which lies west of the Chenango river. The second ward to embrace all that part lying east of the Chenango river, south of the centre of Court-street, and west of the centre of Centre-street. The third ward, all that part lying north of the centre of Court-street east of the Chenango river, and west of the centre of Chenango-

street. The fourth ward, all that part lying east of the Chenango river, north of the centre of Court-street, and east of the centre of Chenango-street. The fifth ward, to embrace all the residue of the village lying south of the centre of Court-street, and east of the centre of Centre-street.

On the first Tuesday in June, 1834, agreeably to a provision of the act, the inhabitants of the village met in their respective wards and chose the following persons as Trustees, viz : Samuel Peterson, as trustee of the first ward ; George Park, of the second ward ; Stephen Weed, of the third ward ; William Seymour of the fourth ward ; and William B. Doubleday, of the fifth ward. These five, with their successors, clothed with powers specified in the same act which provided for their creation, were to form a *perpetual Board of Trustees* for the government of the village, in every thing pertaining to its public peace, its safety, its convenience, and its improvement.

On the fourth day of June, at the first meeting of this Board, the following persons were appointed its officers : Daniel S. Dickinson, President of the Board ; Erasmus D. Robinson, Clerk ; Joseph S. Bosworth, Attorney ; Julius Page, Treasurer ; and Joseph Bartlett, Police Constable and Collector. Five Fire Wardens were also appointed ; Myron Merrill, of the first ward ; George T. Ray, of the second ward ; Levi Dimmick, of the third ward ; Cary Murdock, of the fourth ward ; and Isaac Leavenworth, of the fifth ward.

At the same meeting, a committee was appointed

to draft a code of by-laws for their internal regulation. The Board proceeded, the same month it appears, to pass the resolution for forming two fire companies, to be called the hook and ladder companies. It should be recorded again and again, for the honor of that great man, that Dr. Franklin was the author of fire companies.

In June, 1836, a petition was presented, signed by ninety-one citizens, requesting the Board to raise the sum of six hundred dollars, for the purpose of purchasing a fire engine. A petition at the same time was presented, signed by sixteen persons, praying to be formed into a fire company. The signers of this petition were William H. Pratt, Henry M. Collier, James Eldredge, George Congdon, James Smead, A. W. Martin, Peter Clew, Isaac Bartlett, Caleb Roberts, James Bigler, William Bigler, John Scofield, Isaac Bishop, Thomas Johnson, J. P. Sutton, and D. Horton. These young men formed the first fire company of the village, and deserve the greater honor for having *offered themselves*.

The Board proceeded also with dexterity to level and otherwise improve the streets, to flag the side walks, and to remove nuisances.

Upon the first of August, 1837, the following persons, upon addressing a petition to the Board to be formed into a second fire company, were accordingly organized : Charles L. Robinson, James H. Halstead, Evans M. Johnson, John H. H. Park, Albert C. Morgan, Russel B. Tripp, Charles Rogers, Jacob Morris, jun., John McNeil, Thomas G. Halstead, Frederick A. Morgan, Charles Tupper,

Charles Cole, William Castle, George Dyer, and William Abbott. These young men, being the most, if not all, of them, in their minority, were called "The Juvenile Fire Company."

These two companies may be considered the *corporate*, though youthful, *fathers* of future companies, which will be found, in years to come, in the midnight hour, amid roaring flames and falling buildings, plying their engines to stay the destruction, and finally to quench the rage and madness of the fire.

The county of Broome and its immediate neighborhood, contains but little to interest, particularly, the geologist; so little that the gentlemen employed in the late geological and mineralogical survey that has been made of the State, in their report to the Legislature, pass the county *by*, almost in silence. The principal rock, says a geologist, well acquainted with this section of country, in the county is graywack, which is found in all our hills, and forms the basis of the mountains. It is found, also in the beds of the largest streams. This may be said indeed to be the only stone found in the county. It is found lying in stratas, nearly in a horizontal position, with, however, a slight inclination to the west. This inclination exists even in the beds of the rivers. Near the surface, upon the mountains, it is found broken up into fragments; which is the result either of frost or of ancient internal irruptions.

But the pebbles found in and near the banks of the Susquehannah and Chenango rivers, however, exhibit an astonishing variety: garnet, tourmaline,

quartz, agate, hornstone, porphyry, granite, jasper, feldspar, hornblend, dark blue limestone, and conglomerates, of almost every character, are occasionally picked up and added to the cabinet of the naturalist. Negatively speaking, we have no gypsum, no limestone, no iron or other mineral. A brine spring exists in Lisle, on the lands of Christopher Eldredge.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

THE present Presbyterian Church of Binghamton was originally Congregational in its form of government, and was organized in the year 1817. The organization took place in the early part of the ministration of Mr. Niles. This clerical gentleman came from New Lebanon; was unordained until 1818, and labored until ordained as a stated supply. With about a year's interval, and previous to Mr. Niles' ministry here, a Mr. May, an ordained minister, was employed by the Presbyterian interest. Before this gentleman, no Presbyterian minister steadily preached in the village. The only periodical preaching in the vicinity, previous to this, was from the Dutch Reformed Church, whose minister, Mr. Palmer, after about 1810, preached alternately in the court house in the village and at Union. But very little religious influence was either exerted or felt in the place, except what might have been felt from a few solitary examples of piety, from the existence of the sacred volume in families, and from



the conscience of men whose early education had been christian, until Mr. May, or more properly, it should be stated, until Mr. Niles appeared in the village. He was a man whose life was irreproachable. His preaching, too, though characterized with only ordinary talent, was such as leaves men not easy in a sinful course.

Mr. Niles came in the spring of 1816, and after one year's labor, a revival and reformation of considerable extent was the result. This paved the way and furnished members for the organization of the church. At this organization, the Rev. Ebenezer Kingsbury, of Hartford, Pa., and the Rev. Joseph Wood, of Windsor, were the officiating ministers; and the church, in its first constitution, consisted of twenty members—three males, viz: Jesse Hinds, sen., Jonathan Ogden, and John McKinney; the rest were females. The most of these latter were ladies of families; and their names—as they were original members, and as the position in which it placed them in their families was responsible,—it may be proper to record. The persons were, Mrs. Whiting, Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Morse, Mrs. Woodruff, the wife of Esq. Woodruff, a Mrs. Sedgwick, Mrs. Weed, a Mrs. Whitmore, Mrs. Hinds, Mrs. Ely, the wife of Col. Ely, Mrs. Smith, Miss Hannah Whitney, now the wife of Deacon Stow, Mrs. Ogden, Mrs. Vandewater, and Mrs. Edwards.

The officers of the church were two Deacons: Samuel Stow and John McKinney. Deacon Stow had moved into the place subsequent to the formation of the church. Mr. Niles was ordained and

installed pastor of the church in 1818. In the same year the first Sabbath School of the place was instituted by the female members of this church. About this time also, the form of the government of the church was changed from Congregational to Presbyterian ; which latter form it has retained ever since. Under the Presbyterian form, which requires ruling elders, those who first filled this office were Deacon Samuel Stow, Deacon West, now an officer in the church at Castle Creek, and John McKinney. The two latter sustained also the office of Deacons.

There were additions made to this society almost at every communion season, both from emigrants who had been members in churches whence they emigrated, and from persons becoming hopefully pious, of the place. The church, under the superintendence of their pastor, maintained for a series of years what they called a church meeting, designed exclusively for church members ; held as often as their communion season occurred, but half way between those seasons. These meetings, the older members say, were the most *precious* and *valuable* to them of all others ; undoubtedly because there was more confidential interchange of christian sentiment and feeling, and therefore more of that which in scripture is denominated "communion of spirits."

In the year 1827, and towards the close of Mr. Niles' ministry, as well as that of his life, a very general revival took place in the village, which, though chiefly in the Presbyterian society, extended to the other christian societies.

In this year, the Rev. Peter Lockwood, afterward sole pastor of the congregation, was called as junior pastor, to assist Mr. Niles ; whose health was now declining.

The death of Mr. Niles, which had been looked upon as evidently fast approaching, took place in July, 1828, and was met by him with calmness, in clear anticipation of entering upon "that *rest* which remains for the people of God."

Mr. Lockwood now became the sole pastor, and continued his pastoral relation until April, 1833. During Mr. Lockwood's ministry there were very large accessions made to the church—scarcely a communion season passing without some entering on the profession of their new and living faith, within its pale.

After the period of Mr. Lockwood's ministry, the church was without a settled and pastoral care until 1836. In the interval, however, it had the ministerial labours for an indefinite time of the Rev. Lewis D. Howell, and of the Rev. John Fowler, now of Utica.

In 1836, the Rev. John A. Nash was called to the pastoral charge. His parochial relation, however, was of comparatively short duration, only about two years. His talents as a sermonizer were much above mediocrity.

In September, 1828, the Rev. David D. Gregory, formerly pastor of the church in Westfield, of this state, became the pastor of this church. Mr. Gregory is a graduate of William's College, Mass., and studied theology at Andover. Mr. Gregory's preach-

ing is well calculated to *build up* christians, and also to *invite* sinners to the Saviour of mankind.

The Presbyterian church edifice was finished and dedicated in December, 1819, or the January following. Jonathan Ogden was the architect; and his mother the first person buried in the ground opened near this edifice for the reception of the dead.

The Episcopal Church of Binghamton was incorporated in the year 1816. Samuel McNeil and Selah Squires were chosen the Church Wardens; and Elias B. Miller, Lewis Squires, Mason Whiting, Tracy Robinson, John A. Collier, Thomas G. Waterman, John Stone, and Rufus Park, were chosen Vestrymen.

The principal men, with their families, that composed the church, in its earliest existence, were Joshua Whitney, Selah Squires, Samuel McNeil, Thomas G. Waterman, Tracy Robinson, Rufus Park, William Chamberlain, Elias Butler, Mason Whiting, John A. Collier, Lewis Squires, Gilbert Tompkins, John Stone, James Squires, Peter Crissy, Christopher Eldredge, and Elmore Gilbert.

The Rev. Mr. Keeler, at present the rector of the church in Harpursville, was the first officiating clergyman. He was hired only for six months. Mr. Keeler, who had but lately taken Deacon's orders, was from the diocese of Connecticut, and was in company with Bishop Hobart at the time the Bishop constituted the church and consecrated their house of worship. This house was built originally for an academy; but while in a state of finishing, it was purchased by the Episcopal society, and finish-

ed in a suitable style for divine worship. It was afterward sold to the Methodist society; and their present edifice was built in 1821 and '2, at an expense, with its decorations, of about \$3500, by H. T. McGeorge, the principal architect.

In the burying ground attached to this church, the first person interred was a Mrs. Birdsall, the wife of a lawyer, and a sister of John A. Collier's first wife, and sister also to the present wife of Thomas Evans.

The successor of Mr. Keeler was the Rev. Francis H. Cumming, a young man at the time, and lately in Deacon's orders, from the diocese of New Jersey. Mr. Cumming was passing through the place and accidentally became known to Dr. Robinson, as an Episcopal clergyman, and without charge. He was immediately engaged to take charge of the congregation. He is represented even at this early period of his ministerial life, to have possessed an easy, natural, and engaging eloquence. He remained the officiating clergyman until 1821, when the Rev. Mr. Gear, of Onondaga county, was invited to take the rectorship of the parish. Mr. Gear is spoken of as a man of more than ordinary learning and talents, and his *biblical* knowledge is represented as having been profound and extensive.

In 1824, Mr. Gear's parochial charge in this place terminated, and the Rev. Nathaniel Huse was called from Oneida county to succeed him. In 1827, and during the ministry of Mr. Huse, there was a greater addition made to those members who take upon them all the responsibilities of christians,



and enter into full communion with the church, than at any other one period. These, in the judgment of charity, had experienced what is denominated a "change of heart," and were a part of the fruits of a general revival in that year.

In the year 1829, Mr. Cumming was recalled, and took the rectorship. Mr. Cumming, at the time he was called, was rector of the Episcopal church in Rochester. Eight or ten years having elapsed since he was here before, Mr. Cumming's piety and christian experience had become deepened, and his preaching was now more practical and evangelical; but his stay was only short; between one and two years.

In 1830, the bell was put into the church, weighing 700 lbs.

In the year 1831, the Vestry gave an invitation to the Rev. Hiram Adams, then settled over a church in Brownsville, Jefferson county, to become their pastor. This invitation was accepted, and he became their spiritual shepherd for four or five years. Mr. Adams is represented also as a man of talent and learning.

In 1835, Mr. Adams terminated his rectorship here, and in July, of the same year, the Vestry resolved to invite the Rev. Mr. Shimeall, of Canandaigua, to be their rector. His stay was short; scant a year. He, in the time, painted the curtains of the church. He is distinguished as the author of a very large and learned biblical chart.

Mr. Shimeall's resignation took place in May, 1836; and the last of June, the Vestry resolved to

invite the Rev. Edward Andrews to their rectorship. This invitation was accepted, and Mr. Andrews is now the present rector. Mr. Andrews, possessing talents which place him quite among the first class of preachers, has great popularity and acceptableness among his people ; and his discretion and affectionate manners endear him to all who have the happiness to be much in his society.

There was no Methodist society formed in the village of Binghamton or its vicinity until the year 1817, when a class, consisting of five persons, was organized. Mr. Joseph Manning, his wife and daughter, Mr. Peter Wentz, and his wife, were the five persons. Previous to the formation of this class, and that which led to it, Mr. Manning, who was previously a member of the Methodist church, went to Union and solicited the service of a preacher by the name of Doolittle, a circuit preacher. Mr. Doolittle came and held his first meeting at Mr. Manning's house, who lived then at the west end of the Chenango bridge, and on the south side of Main-street. At this meeting the class was formed, and Mr. Manning was appointed class leader. Preaching continued after this statedly, on a week day, once in two weeks ; and the meetings were held, first at Mr. Manning's house for a length of time, then at the district school house in the village ; after which they were moved and held in the court house, until they worshipped in their present chapel.

A Mr. Arnold succeeded Mr. Doolittle on the circuit and was the particular *one*, of the two on the circuit, that preached in the village. There were,

however, no additions made to the society for years, except those who joined by letters of recommendation. Even their ministers appeared to take but a partial interest in the Methodist cause here—most likely for want of more encouraging prospects—until a Mr. Warner came in 1822, under whose ministry a revival of very considerable extent took place. So far as visible agencies were concerned in the production of this revival, it may be attributed to Mr. Warner's taking up his residence in the place; his manner of preaching, which was pungent and rousing, together with his mingling himself much with the people. As many as forty joined the society as fruits of this revival; and it is remarked by the older members, that the reformation was distinguished by a deep conviction of inherent sin, which seemed to lay the foundation for more than ordinary humility on the part of the subjects. Very few relapsed back to a worldly state.

A Mr. Lull was associated on the circuit with Mr. Warner, and preached more or less in the village. In the beginning of Mr. Warner's ministration in the place, in 1822, the Methodist chapel was purchased of the Episcopalians, and moved from the site of the present Episcopal church to where it now stands. The ground of its location with the burying place was given gratuitously to the society by the Bingham estate, through the agency of Gen. Whitney.

In 1823, the Rev. Horace Agard and the Rev. John Sayre were upon the circuit, and the officiating ministers in the village. In 1824, Mr. Agard re-

turned, and the Rev. Solon Stocking, who has been a resident of the village ever since, was his colleague. From this time there were yearly additions made to the society, both from beyond the pale of the visible church and from those who were received upon letters from other societies. Mr. Stocking found the society composed of about fifty members when he came.

A Mr. Judd succeeded Mr. Agard; the Rev. Philo Barbary succeeded Mr. Judd; and connected with Mr. Barbary was the Rev. Benjamin Shipman; Mr. Barbary's labors were in 1827 and '8. In '29, Mr. Shipman returned. In 1830, the Rev. Silas Comfort and the Rev. R. Cushman were appointed upon the circuit. In '31 Mr. Comfort and the Rev. Nelson Rounds were colleagues. In 1832 and '3, the Rev. David A. Shepard was appointed. He had no associate, and his labors were confined to the village. In 1834 and '5, John S. Mitchell was the minister of the society, and his labors were also confined to the village. In 1836, Hardford Colburn. In 1837, H. T. Rowe. In 1838 and '9, Robert Fox, an Englishman. The present clergyman is Joseph Cross, who was also born in England. Mr. Cross joined the church when twelve years old. He preached his first sermon when only fifteen.

In 1830, when the society had augmented to nearly one hundred members, it was found necessary to divide, and two or three classes were amicably formed from the original one.

At present, in the village and its vicinity, there

are about two hundred and fifty members in the society, existing in seven classes.

As has been before remarked, the first church formed in the settlement was that of the Baptist order; but this became extinct about the year 1800. The present Baptist church was constituted in May, 1829, soon after a very considerable revival of religion under the occasional labors of Elder Frederick, at that time pastor of the Baptist church at the Great Bend. To this revival, it might be considered, as owing its infant existence. It consisted at first of twenty-four members; four of whom were males, and twenty females. John Congdon, jun., and Reuben Starkweather were, at the constitution of the church, appointed Deacons; which office, in that church, they still hold. Immediately upon the formation of the church, twenty-eight were added by baptism, and several more by letter.

Elder Frederick's labors having been crowned with so much success, was chosen and invited to take the pastoral care of the young church. The invitation was accepted, and he was installed as pastor, and removed to Binghamton.

In the year 1831, and during the ministry of Elder Frederick, the present church edifice was erected; and great credit is said to be due to him, for his untiring zeal and perseverance in obtaining funds, and otherwise promoting its erection.

In the winter of 1833-4, there was a revival under the ministration of the Rev. Jason Corwin, then pastor of the church; which resulted in the addition of about fifty members.



In the fall of 1837, there was another very considerable revival under the preaching of the Rev. Jacob Knapp, who spent about a month in Binghamton; making one great and protracted effort to bring men into the kingdom of the visible church; not appearing to heed with what particular denomination they should unite. During his stay, and immediately subsequent, there were added to this church about seventy members. This accession, so far as a present judgment may be formed, may be said to have placed the Baptist church upon a permanent, and—so far as foreign aid is concerned—an independent basis. The present number of members is one hundred and seventy-nine.

The more common place of immersion, in early times, was in the Chenango river, near Col. Lewis' mills.

The pastors of the church have succeeded each other in the following order: Rev's. Michael Frederick, Jason Corwin, Henry Robertson, Davis Dimmick, William Storrs, and James M. Coley. The last of whom is the present pastor.

The Congregational Church is a recent branch from the Presbyterian. It was organized in the year 1836, and composed at first of eighteen members; who had solicited and obtained letters of dismission from the parent church, for the specific purpose of forming a new one.

To the minds of those who first thought of separating and forming a new church and congregation, it occurred that the present and anticipated growth of the village, together with the present and grow-

ing size of the Presbyterian church, would justify the separation of a branch, without material prejudice to the former, and with sufficiently encouraging prospects to the latter.

There were other considerations and feelings, however, which more efficiently influenced these persons to desire to form a new infant body ; and which may be considered the *causes* that led to the separation taking place at that time.

The different tastes and temperaments in so large a body of people as the Presbyterian congregation, had begun now to arrange themselves under the *two* great, but diverse, *opinions*—relating more to measures than to doctrines—which agitated at this time the Presbyterian church generally. And as that congregation was brought now into immediate contact with the measures that were approved of by the one part, and disapproved of by the other, the respective parties found that their approval and disapproval arose to *relish* and *disgust*. This sundered, in a great measure, the tie of their union, and rendered fellowship in such close relations impracticable.

This state of things induced a comparatively small minority—the number of about thirty—to desire a separation from the parent church ; and they resolved to take measures, in a friendly and christian manner, to accomplish it.

After being set apart by the ordinary formality, they were constituted a church by the Rev. John Starkweather, as officiating minister, who was immediately called to be their pastor. Articles of

faith and a church covenant were drawn up and subscribed by the members ; but not until they had been submitted to the parent church for their approval.

Their house of worship was built the year succeeding, 1837, by the joint skill and superintendence of Jonathan Ogden and John Lewis, and was dedicated the last of December of that year. On the morning of the day in which this house was dedicated, died William H. Pratt, a young gentleman of the village, whose views and feelings had been coincident with those of the infant church ; and with which he had worshipped from the time of its separation. The interest he appeared to feel, and the zeal he actually took, in relation to this young society was remarkable, as he had not, until a short time before his death, made profession of piety. His death was honored by its *coincidence* with the dedication of a house of divine worship his zeal had helped to build.

Mr. Starkweather remained the pastor but a very short time after the dedication of the house. After him the Rev. Arthur Burtis was a stated supply from November, 1838, to July, 1839. The Rev. Samuel W. Bush, is the present pastor.

There is in the village a Catholic Cathedral, built very recently—finished in 1837—but with no settled or stated ministry over it. Occasionally divine service is held there ; and uniformly on the Sabbath a few conscientious Catholics repair to it, to perform the duty of mass.

There was organized in the village, in January,

1838, a Universalist society also, consisting of about fifty members, many of whom, however, do not reside in the village. The officiating minister of the society is Charles S. Brown, of Lisle. They have, as yet, no edifice, and hold their meetings in the court house.

The present state of the village, with its business and resources, is the result of fifty years of ingress of inhabitants, both of the country and village, and their improvements. In the conclusion of these Annals, therefore, it will not be inappropriate to give the present *aggregate* of business, in most of its leading branches. This will be briefly done, in what may be termed round numbers, without pretending to minute accuracy.

The amount of lumber transported to market annually is about four millions of feet; about one million of this is sawed and sent principally to the southern markets by Christopher Eldredge. One million, by Gen. Waterman to the eastern markets. One million, by Col. Lewis, mostly to southern markets. The fourth million, by John D. Smith and Lewis Seymour.

The annual amount of sales for the last year or two in the village, of those in the grocery line exclusively, is \$48,000; of those in the victualling line, \$18,500; of merchants in the dry goods and groceries together, rising \$200,000. The sales of those in the drugg business, who, however, unite other articles of merchandise, are \$40,000; of iron and tin ware, embracing the manufactory of the same, \$12,000; of hardware, exclusively, \$12,000;

the sales and manufactory of millinery and mantua-making, \$8,000 ; of the sales and manufactory of leather and shoes, \$18,500 ; the amount of carriage making, \$6,000 ; of blacksmithing, rising \$4,000 ; of watches and jewelry, \$4,000 ; of tailoring, \$7,500 ; of saddlery and harness-making, \$8,000. The amount of the sales and manufactory of hats and caps \$5,000 ; of plows manufactured, \$3,500 ; cutting and sale of marble stone, \$3,000 ; of the manufactory and sale of rifles and guns, \$5,000 ; sales from the butchers' stall, 8 or \$10,000. In the summer time, between 3 and 400 bottles of beer made per week ; 10,000 lbs. of candles manufactured per year ; between 15 and 20 tons of candy manufactured. The present annual proceeds of the four taverns of the village are about \$20,000.

## FINIS.

## ERRATA.

Page 9, 16th line, *its* for *into*.

" 19, 5th " *trace* for *have*.

" 30, 8th " *as it was* for *was it as*.

" 128, 22d " *Roswell* instead of *John*.

" 154, 12th " *Lemuel* " *Samuel*.

" 155, 18th " *though* " *was*.

" 169, 22d " *the other* " *another*.

" 214, 4th " 1824 " 1827.

" 215, 15th " 1837 " 1829.

" 232, 3d from bottom, *Westchester county* instead of *Connecticut*.















